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THE TIMES

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 1997

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FA damns Italian police for Rome violence

BY ADRIAN LEE AND RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Football Association yesterday accused the Italian police of "deliberate intimidation" and "extreme provocation" in a damning report into the violence that marred England's World Cup match in Rome a fortnight ago.

The condemnation threatened to blow up into a diplomatic storm last night as the Italian Embassy in London dismissed the investigation as a "one-sided whitewash".

As Italian diplomats continued to blame "English hooligans" for causing the violence seen by millions on television, the FA stood by its dossier.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, refused to be drawn into the mounting acrimony but said he would meet the FA to discuss the investigation.

An Italian spokesman said the report of the Italian Interior Ministry's own inquiry would be released next week but added: "It is a nonsense to blame our police when they had to face drunken hooligans throwing missiles." He said 77 seats had been ripped up by English fans and four policemen were seriously injured.

The FA dossier was compiled from the graphic testimony of 1,500 supporters who described how they faced baton charges, insults and were spat at. One complainant was aged 12. The FA accused the Italian authorities of ignoring advice from British police experts who were sent to control a small number of known hooligans. Instead the Italian organisers sold tickets to English fans for the wrong end of the stadium, it said. When both sets of fans began bombarding each other with seats and bottles, the report said, the police only acted against the English supporters.

The report said stewarding in the 82,000 all-seater stadium was almost non-existent and elementary crowd safety procedures were abandoned amid chaos. The FA called for countries which stage international matches to agree to a basic standard of organisation.

Concern grew last night that the report may affect the next Anglo-Italian encounter, when Manchester United fans travel to Turin for the tie against Juventus. FA sources said they did not think it right to sit on this report until after that game. They agreed that the behaviour of the police and the travelling fans will receive "unprecedented scrutiny".

David Mellor, head of the Football Task Force, welcomed the report, and agreed more had to be done to prevent known troublemakers following the England team abroad.

In Rome a spokesman for Mario Pescante, chairman of the Italian Olympic Committee, charged that British officials were inconsistent: "They say one thing to us and another to the British public." The Italian Football Federation said it would study the report carefully. The chief of police, Rino Monaco, declined to comment.

Francesco Rutelli, Mayor of Rome, said there was "no basis" for accusations that the police were brutal. "On the contrary, they contained a dangerous situation which could have got out of hand".

Football reports, pages 35-39

ROGER DONOVAN / AP

Cherie Blair escorts Bumni Anyaoku, wife of the Commonwealth Secretary General, through a "Family Festival" marquee in Edinburgh

Personal video image of Blair's Britain

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

TONY BLAIR put his personal stamp on the new image of Britain as a young, vibrant nation yesterday with a remarkable promotional video shown to millions of television viewers across the Commonwealth.

The eight-minute broadcast, a visual directory of "who's in" in Cool Britannia — and, by omission, "who's out" — was the centrepiece of a 90-minute session of story, music and dance, as well as traditional speeches to representatives of 51 countries meeting in Edinburgh. The video included Blairite choices such as Ted Baker, his children's favourite shirt designer, and recent Downing Street celebrity guests Richard Branson, the Virgin boss, and Noel Gallagher of Oasis.

The relaunch of New Britain was more of a facelift than a makeover. Such is the tyranny of youth that Desmond Lynam's was the only grey hair to be spotted among dozens of unkempt pop singers and brattish film stars. Nobody was allowed to be bald. The video, which included scenes from the film about male strippers, *The Full Monty*, and excerpts from the Spice Girls' *Wannabe* video, was watched in silence by Commonwealth leaders.

But its target audience was the people of the Empire's former subject nations, whose memories of the British are dominated by marching bands, superior colonials taking tiffin, drinking gin and tonic and playing polo.

The video, produced by Pete Bolton of Spectrum, introduced Mr Blair's speech to the conference. It began with a Union flag surrounded by the internet address.

Against a background of techno music, graphics were rapidly displayed on the themes of technology, trade, education, the environment and culture. First, a gleaming CD faded into pictures of a telescope five times more powerful than Hubble, which can see the surfaces of stars. Designed, of course, in Britain.

Next came a stroke patient having a life-saving operation, a jet plane with Rolls-Royce turbine blades capable of withstanding 1000C, and a British Telecom device to identify people by their irises.

The segment about trade began with a £1 coin, the image of the Queen's head being the only reference to monarchy in the entire video. Pills were seen on a production line as the pharmaceutical industry's achievements were lauded. Also British were the world's busiest airport (planes at Heathrow), most Formula 1 cars (tight corners at Grand Prix), most European retailers (people buying oranges at supermarkets), and a third of the world's foreign exchange business (City traders waving their arms).

The environment section included the Eden Project to create a giant greenhouse in Cornwall and an environmentally-friendly Sainsbury's juggernaut. Education was illustrated by children using computers and an Open University student writing an essay. Finally, culture highlighted fashion, film, architecture, rock and design.

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Pound coin	Euro
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Pharmaceutical companies	Arms companies
Oasis	Pulp
Desmond Lynam	*Jimmy Hill*
Smirnoff vodka advert	Oxo advert
Virgin Megastore	Aquascutum
Sainsburys	Fortnum & Mason
Canary Wharf	Tower of London
Trainspotting	The Railway Children
Notting Hill Carnival	Last Night of the Proms
BBC World Service	TV Bush House
Katharine Hamnett	Liberty
Colin Thubron	Jeffrey Archer
Hugh Grant	Michael Caine
Reeves and Mortimer	French and Saunders
Angus Deayton	Clive Anderson
David Dimbleby	Jeremy Paxman
The Full Monty	Monty Python
The Madness of King George	Rob Roy
Kula Shaker	Elton John
George Michael	Paul Weller
Spice Girls	Gabrielle

Anyone for tennis with our Tony?

BY PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

WHEN Tony Blair met the Commonwealth heads of government yesterday in Edinburgh he was looking not at their sashes and gongs but rather for a specific snap in the hips, strength in the leg and a cool, unsweaty palm.

"The Prime Minister is looking for a tennis partner," said one of his aides yesterday. "He will choose one after he has met them all today."

The Commonwealth leaders will be adjourning on Sunday to St Andrews where golf, massages, tennis and football will be on offer. In the hotels of Edinburgh, Mr Blair's challenge has been met with vigour. High commissioners and advisers are urging their bosses into toe-touching, leg curls and short sprints.

Typical is the attitude of the Bahamians, whose President, Hubert Ingraham, though in the mid to low-5ft range, is up for it. "He is a bit short," says a Bahamas High Commission official, "and not so athletic. Golf is really his game, but I am sure he could play tennis if he needed to."

President Masire of Botswana is also game. "He is in his seventies but very athletic," his High Commission says. "He keeps fit by herding buffaloes, that sort of thing."

Nobody, it seems, is prepared to say his head of government is any less than a near Linford Christie. Dr Keith Claudius Mitchell, Grenada's

Continued on p2, col 2

THE SATURDAY TIMES Now Bigger and Better

The Saturday Times is now bigger and better, with expanded **SPORT** and more award-winning **WEEKEND MONEY** pages. The enhanced **BUSINESS** pages start on page 27. And the expanded **WEEKEND** contains more travel including skiing.

Times busiest Internet site

Readers of the Internet editions of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* called up more than 11.3 million pages in September, making the Internet editions of the two newspapers the busiest audited website in Britain, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulation. The website also recorded its one-millionth reader registration since its launch on January 1, 1996.

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Rector found guilty of affair with married parishioner

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE Rector of Benllech last night faced being stripped of his holy orders after an ecclesiastical court in Wales found he had had an adulterous six-year affair with a married parishioner.

After a five-day hearing, the three judges on the Church in Wales's Provincial Court declared that the Rev Clifford Williams, 49, had given "just cause for scandal or offence".

Mr Williams, who was wearing a dog collar for the first time in court, has pledged to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights. The church court had been petitioned by the Bishop of Bangor, the Right Rev Dr Barry Morgan, to inquire whether Mr Williams behaved in such a way to give "just cause for scandal or offence".

Mr Williams had to answer *four* formal charges that he conducted an adulterous six-year affair with Iris Green, 56, and that he engaged in "close relations of improper familiarity" with another married parishioner, Anne Williams. The other charges alleged that Mr Williams lied to the bishop over the nature of the photographs taken of him with Mrs Green on the Malvern Hills, and that he disobeyed the bishop's order to stop conducting church services at St Andrew's Church, Benllech.

The court, which last sat in public in 1938, heard Mrs Green, a music teacher who moved to Tyn-y-Gongl on Anglesey in 1989, complain that the rector pursued her for sex and had other lovers. She claimed he seduced her on her sofa when she was still vulnerable after the death of her teenage son in a motorcycle accident. As the relationship soured, he stalked her and plagued her with phone calls.

"He preys on women, particularly women who are in vulnerable positions," she said. Questioned on where they had sex, she replied: "There were so many: in his house, in his living room, bedroom, practically every room in my house, the garden, in the caravan, on the beach and in his car. Is that enough?"

Yesterday the proceedings were interrupted so that a sworn affidavit from Gwenda Williams, the rector's wife, could be read out. It directly rebutted evidence given under affirmation by the rector on Thursday that he and his wife were still living fully as man and wife.

It read: "This is not true. Since September 1996 I have slept in a separate bedroom. We do not have a sexual relationship, neither do I cook

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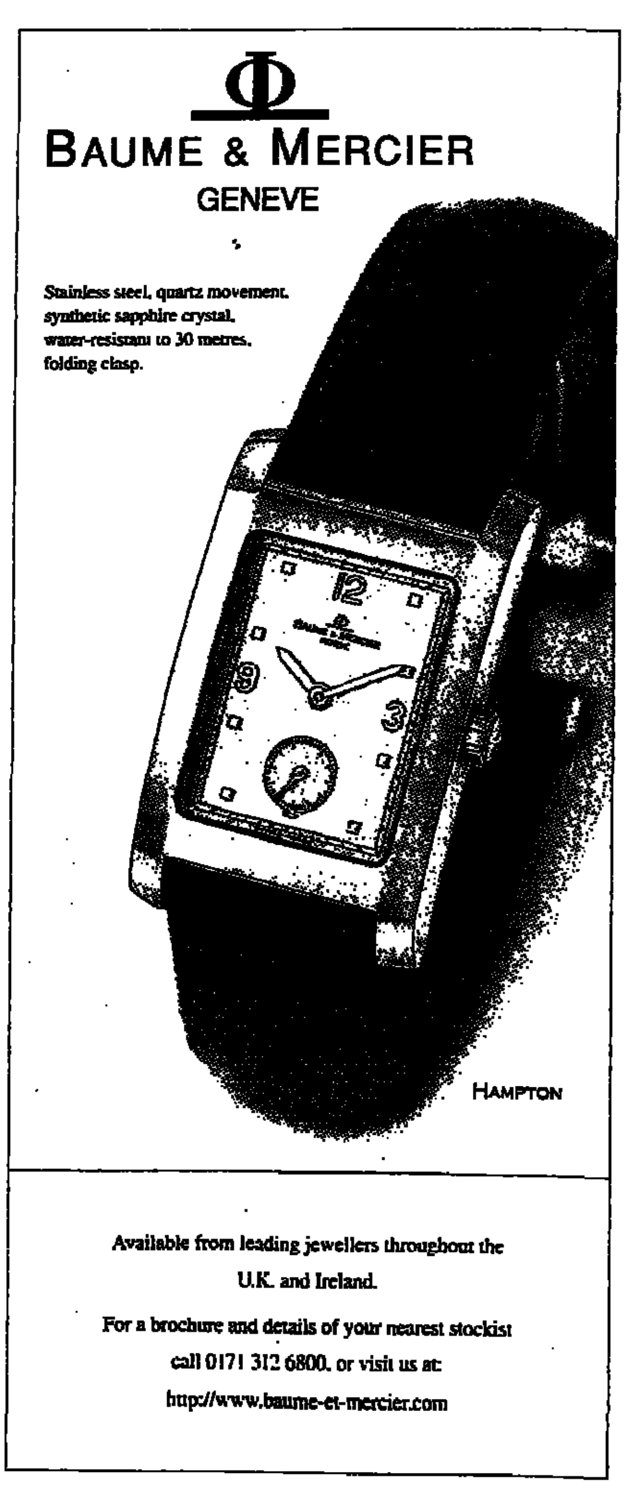

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Brown to give EMU line on Monday

The Chancellor will seek to end the speculation with a statement to the Commons, while Mr Hague's new policy is under fire, write **Andrew Pierce** and **Jill Sherman**

GORDON BROWN will seek to end the damaging speculation about the Government's position on membership of a single European currency in a statement to the House of Commons on Monday.

The Treasury said that the Government was acting "decisively to stop speculation by making a statement to Parliament at the earliest possible opportunity".

Strict secrecy surrounds the contents of the Chancellor's statement, to be made on the day MPs return to Westminster after the summer recess. But Mr Brown will rule out entry in the first wave in 1999. The statement is also expected to reflect Mr Brown's view, as signalled in his *Times* interview last week, that Britain cannot enter during the lifetime of this Parliament.

The Tories claimed that they had forced the Government into making a Commons statement but the Conservatives' own internal difficulties on Europe resurfaced yesterday. Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, led the fightback against the Shadow Cabinet decision to harden its opposition to a single currency by opposing entry in this Parliament and the next. Peter Temple-Morris, a senior MP, said he could not support the new position.

The outline of Mr Brown's statement was discussed by the Cabinet on Thursday but the Prime Minister has issued an edict that there be no briefing in advance because the text is so market-sensitive. Confirmation *of the statement came after the* London markets had closed last night. A Treasury spokesman said: "No official, adviser or Minister will speak on behalf of the Government about the details of the statement beforehand."

Minutes after the announcement of the statement a Downing Street spokesman said that the speech would set out a pragmatic approach, with the Government facing up to "hard choices". The spokesman said: "The dithering of the previous Government will not be repeated."

The early statement to Parliament, which had been repeatedly requested by the Opposition, was *announced after damaging specula*tion on the markets following conflicting reports about the Government's policy.

The Prime Minister, who is in Edinburgh for the Commonwealth summit, is heavily involved in the drafting of the wording, which has not been finalised. The outline was reported to the Cabinet on Thursday.

Ministers hope that that the clarification of the Government's position will *stop nerves jangling in* the City and silence Opposition critics who have made political *capital from the Government's* apparent turmoil.

The pressure was maintained on the Government yesterday when Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner, gave warning that "a Dutch auction" in Euroscepticism was damaging Britain's *national* interest. Sir Leon said that the Government had undermined its chances of taking a *leading role in* Europe through the leaks and confusions over its attitude to EMU. "There *is no proper debate*," Sir Leon said.

He also turned his fire on the *Tories. Sir Leon said:* "Even the most far-sighted politician could not possibly rule out joining something *of such magnitude* in the future." Sir Leon, who was speaking at a conference in London on economic and monetary union, added: "How can opposition to the EMU be frozen in stone — irrespective of international markets? If the Tories want to campaign against the single currency at the next election, then they are practically making decisions until 2007 — surely that is contrary to rational policy?"

His comments were echoed by Mr Clarke, in an ominous development for William Hague's prospects of Tory unity. Mr Clarke, speaking on Radio 4's *The World at One*, said that he preferred the recently agreed Tory formula that Britain should not join EMU "for the foreseeable future" and regretted that the Shadow Cabinet had changed it again. "I don't know why the issue was revisited. I hope it not just to please some Eurosceptics who insisted on different wording."

Michael Gove, page 19
John Lloyd, page 22

TODAY IN THE TIMES

'Sister Frigidaire has returned as Mellow Mother'

Tom Rhodes on Hillary Clinton at 50 – page 9

'My commitment to forgiveness does not come from my experience as a victim'

Valerie Grove meets Mary McAleese – page 21

'Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's press secretary, has been more spinned against than spinning'

Michael Gove traces a Labour disaster – page 19

Tony's tennis

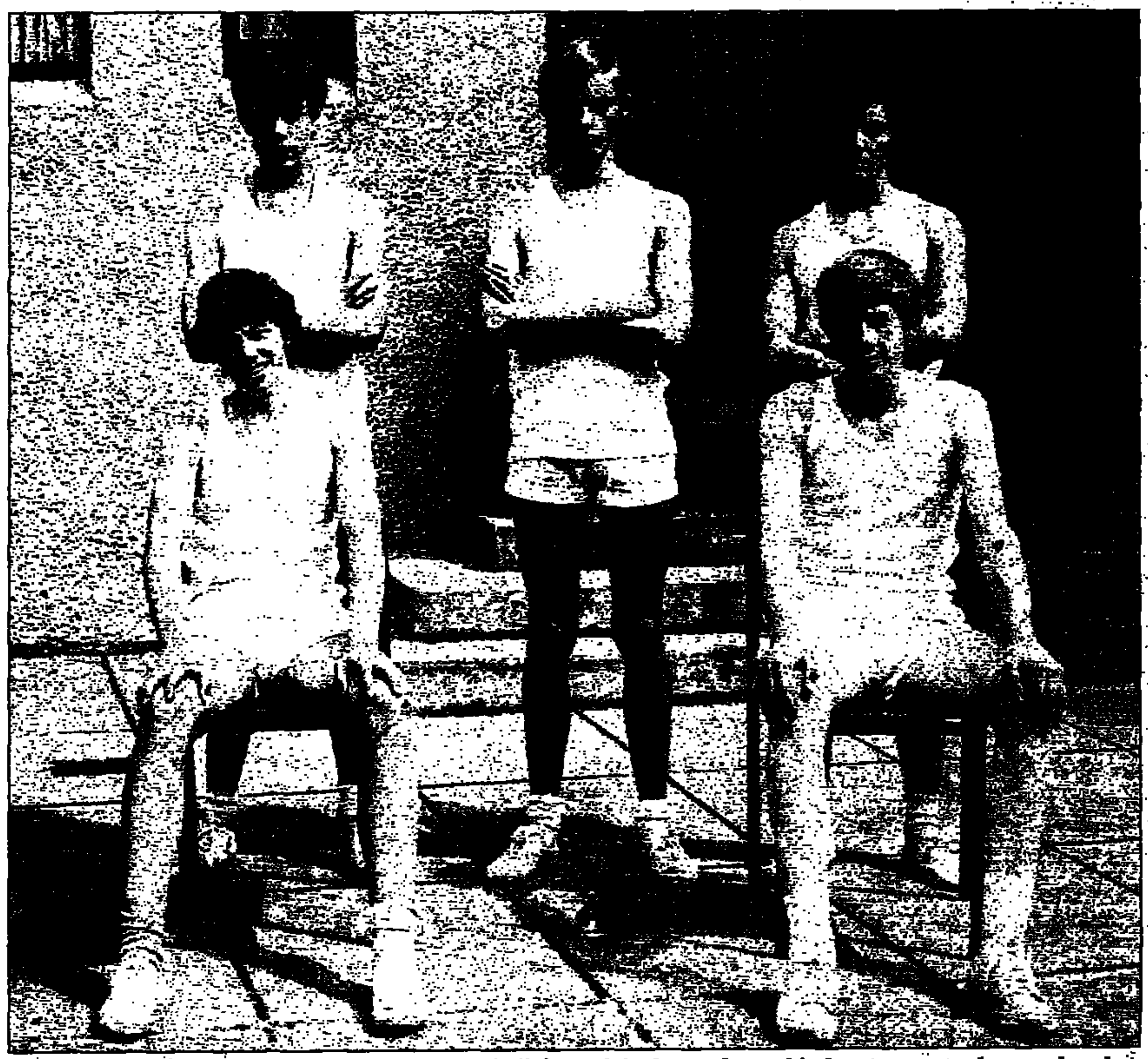
Continued from page 1

Prime Minister, is "a very fit man" according to his office. "Very accomplished at cricket and football, but maybe not so good at tennis." Even the Indians are keen to push their man, Inder Kumar Gujral, Prime Minister and 5ft 8in of lithe muscle. He is "extremely fit for his age," a giggly official said. "But perhaps he is a little old for the more vigorous sports." He is 78.

Mr Blair seems to revel in putting his physical prowess to public test. At the Amster*dam summit this year, when* all the European Union heads of government were given a bicycle to ride, Mr Blair streaked off ahead of his fellow ministers. Germany's Helmut Kohl, by contrast, looked from belly to machine and said "Nein".

However, Mr Blair may just find his opponent. Eriya Katagaya, Uganda's Prime Minister, is a demon server with searing groundstrokes. He remains a prince of the sward into his 50s.

"Just one thing," the *Ugan*dan High Commission says. "He is a different size to your *Prime Minister*." *Not another* titch? "Oh no. He is big." Bigger than big Tony? "Oh yes. *Much bigger. He is a very* big man." The only problem is that he has left his shorts and racquet back home. Perhaps a vindictive Tory could oblige.



The chief executive of Cairn Energy, Bill Gammell, front right, in a rather unkind gesture yesterday, produced an old school photograph of himself and a young Tony Blair, front left, in their Fettes College basketball gear

Experts at odds over dangers of eating red meat

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

FRESH *doubts* have been cast on government advice that eating red meat can increase the *risk of cancer*.

The committee responsible has yet to agree on the final wording of its report, even though the recommendations have been published in a press release from the Department of Health on September 25.

The department last night denied that any changes were planned in the wording of the key advice on red meat, but there are known to be disagreements within the Committee on the Medical Aspects of food policy (COMA) over *how strong it should be.*

The original version, written by a panel headed by Professor Alan Jackson of Southampton University, favoured warning only those who eat 140 grams or more of meat a day. This advice was incorporated into the report and sent to the printer. But at the last moment two members of the full committee demanded stronger language.

One of them was Professor Philip James, director of the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen, the nutrition expert responsible for producing a report at Tony Blair's request on how the new Food Standards Agency should be organised. After Professor *James objected, copies of the* report were scrapped and a new version prepared incorporating stronger advice. This said that anybody eating the current average intake of red meat or above (90 grams a day) "should consider a reduction".

The revised version was discussed at a COMA meeting on October 21. Professor Jackson, with the backing of his panel, is understood to have expressed reservations about the new wording.

He *indicated that the advice* his panel had originally drafted was as much as the *scientific evidence justified.* The result is a stalemate, with no date for the final publication of the report and no clarity over what government advice on meat really is.

A Health Department spokeswoman said yesterday: "COMA want to make sure that the wording of their recommendation cannot be misunderstood by anyone, is scientifically accurate, and is useful *to health professionals* and consumers."

The latest muddle will infuriate ministers who had already been embarrassed by the need to halt printing of the first version. But it reflects intense battles going on within Whitehall over food policy.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Body is found in hunt for boy

Detectives investigating the disappearance of Jamie Lavis, eight, said they had unearthed the remains of a child in woodland next to Reddish Vale Golf Course at Stockport, Manchester. The boy disappeared on May 5. Darren Vickers, 27, a bus driver, has been charged with the boy's abduction.

Dome answers

Peter Mandelson is to be questioned once a month in the Commons about the Government's plans to mark the Millennium. The Minister without Portfolio, who will answer questions on the project for five minutes each month, makes his first appearance on November 10.

Snap happy

Eleven baby West African crocodiles, thought to be the biggest clutch hatched in captivity, have made their public debut. The crocodiles, which measured 10cm when they were born within an hour of each other, went on show at Bristol Zoo aged ten weeks. They feed on crickets, fish and mice.

Shout verdict

A teacher who shouted at his wife so loudly that she suffered permanent hearing damage was convicted at Exeter Crown Court of causing actual bodily harm. Peter Pryor, 58, from Barnstaple, Devon, had wanted her to know how his tinnitus affected him. Sentencing was adjourned for reports.

School inquest

A pupil who died when he crashed his car into the gates of Malvern College during a police chase was over the legal drink-drive limit, an inquest was told. Julian Elwell, 17, had a reading of 104mg alcohol in 100ml of blood. The legal limit is 80mg. The hearing at Worcester was adjourned.

Lightbulb fault

The Co-op has issued an urgent recall of all its 40, 60 and 100-watt lightbulbs bought from the store since July. A small number of bulbs could be affected by a fault that might cause improperly earthed metal fittings to become live. The store is offering to refund or replace any suspect bulbs.

Theatre closes

The Arts Theatre, Cambridge, home of the student Footlights Review, is to close for four months next summer because of a cash crisis, it was announced. It has debts of £1.5 million only 11 months after it reopened following refurbishment paid for with a £6 million National Lottery grant.

Rotten luck

The first pineapples in 150 years to be ripened by rotting horse manure were picked yesterday. Experts at the Lost Gardens of Heligan had to rediscover the lost art of building a manure "hot bed". Richard Dee, head gardener, said: "It is a bit sharper than a supermarket one."

Willetts rejoins Thatcher era policy centre

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

DAVID Willetts, one of the Conservatives' foremost political thinkers, is to rejoin the think-tank that helped to revive Tory fortunes in the 1970s.

The Havant MP, who was forced to resign as a minister last year in the aftermath of the cash-for-questions scandal, is going back to the Centre for Policy Studies.

He will become deputy chairman of the centre, which was set up by Margaret Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph in 1974 and blazed a trail for the radical free-market economics of the 1980s.

The comeback of Mr Willetts, 41, will intensify the rivalry among think-tanks. Although the left-leaning Demos and the Institute for Public Policy Research are close to Tony Blair, the centre and its right-wing rivals, such as the Adam Smith Institute, can still compete in the battle for the ear of opinion-formers.

Mr Willetts said his task was to give the the centre strategic direction and put it back at the forefront of Conservative thought. "Thatcher and Joseph were the giants. Circumstances are different. In the 1970s, Conservative principles had been lost sight of. I don't think that's the problem now.

"But one of the things wrong in government was a *failure to* talk about Conservatism in an attractive and confident way. One way we should be able to help is by correcting some of the absurd caricatures of what Conservatives believe and contributing to a lively and attractive debate about the future of Conservatism."

Mr Willetts, a Tory spokesman on employment, will continue to deputise for Peter *Lilley*, who is spearheading William Hague's long-term review of Conservative policy.

At the think tank, which has lost some of its lustre in recent years, Tessa Keswick will remain as director and Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach as chairman. But Mr Willetts, director of the centre from 1987 to 1992, is expected to become its main driving force.

Guidelines will ensure foetuses feel no pain

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

FOETUSES older than 24 *weeks should be sedated or* aneasthetised during operations to save them or abort *them, according to new guide*lines drawn up to ensure they experience no pain.

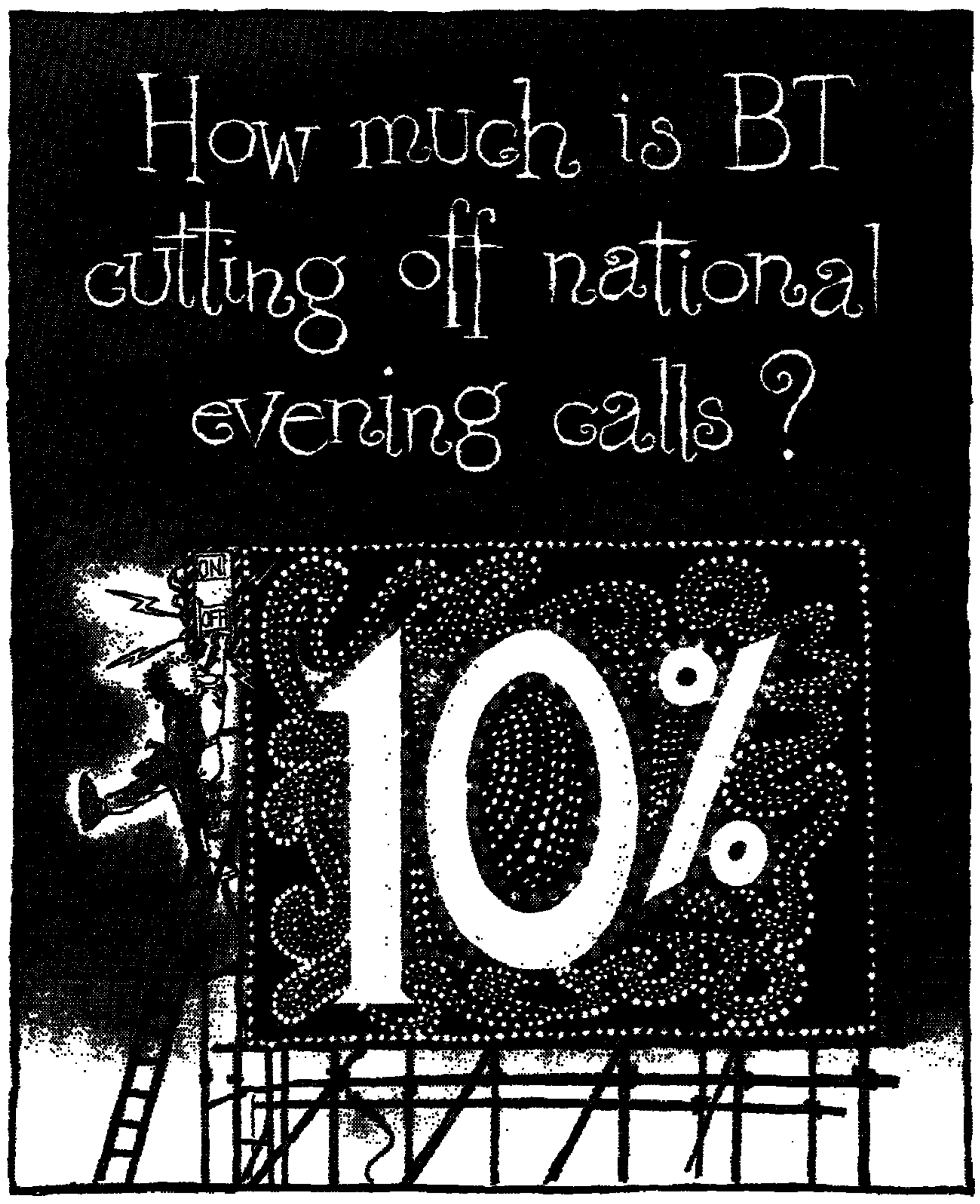
A *working party composed* of medical experts, as well as a theologian and a lawyer, came *to the conclusion that a foetus* cannot feel pain until it is 26 weeks old. This is when the *nerve connections are estab*lished between the cortex and the thalamus in the brain, the two parts that confer awareness. Erring on the safe side, the working party recommended that at 24 weeks a doctor should consider taking *the necessary precautions*.

In practice, a doctor carrying out an abortion stops the heart of almost all foetuses older than 20 weeks. This is done by injection into the heart with a *flexible needle*.

Because abortions are not legal after the 24th week, they are *only performed when the* doctors decide there is a certainty the child would be *born too handicapped* to be viable. An extremely rare procedure, it was carried out in 62 of 160,000 abortions last year.

Dame Anne McLaren, who chaired the working party for the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, *said:* "Sometimes a mother asks that the foetus is delivered live to her so that she can *hold it. In those circumstances* the doctor gives an analgesic to the mother which then gets *through* to the foetus before the abortion. The child only lives very briefly afterwards."

The British Medical Association welcomed the guidelines and said that even if there was no *incontrovertible evidence* that foetuses feel pain, the use of painkillers when carrying out *procedures "may help to* relieve the anxiety of the parents and health professionals".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The Conservatives hit back, after a fashion

Labour women have been mocked as "mutton dressed as glam". **Andrew Pierce** reports

TORY women MPs struck back in the political fashion wars yesterday, by criticising the rapidly shortening hemlines, high heels and dress code of the new intake of sister Labour MPs. The Tory charge has been led by Ann Widdecombe, the formidable former Prisons Minister.

Just a week after the Conservatives were being mocked for their clothes sense at their "bonding weekend" in Eastbourne, Miss Widdecombe, a staunch traditionalist with a penchant for check jackets, said: "I have never believed that appearance matters too much. But the new Labour people are obsessed with it. They come to the House of Commons dolled up to the nines in inappropriate short skirts.

"Some of them wear so much make-up they look like over-zealous assistants at a department store cosmetics' counter. They do not look like they are at Westminster for serious hard work at all. They are dressed more for the catwalk than the Palace of Westminster."

The number of Labour women MPs has risen to 101 — compared with the Tories 13 — after positive discrimination in the choice of election candidates. Miss Widdecombe was speaking in response to Tory party plans to introduce its own positive discrimination for the first time to encourage more Tory women MPs.

The proposals include compelling Conservative associations to ensure 25 per cent of the candidates called for interview are women, but she said: "I deprecate any form of positive discrimination. If women get to Parliament not by beating all the opposition, as her male colleagues have done, but by having a place reserved for them, there is a danger that they will be perceived as second-class citizens.

"Unfortunately, the behaviour of some of the Labour women has added credence to this. The new intake of women is frightful."

Last month, it emerged that a number of the new women had complained to the Whips about the brusque style of Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, who is renowned for her immaculate but conservative dress sense. Miss Widdecombe was contemptuous. "Absolutely typical. Betty Boothroyd is tough but fair on everyone. These women cannot take it because they have not come through the horrors of the system like we have. They were given apron strings to hang on to because of Labour's positive discrimination. The dear little souls are not up to it."

Top, from left: Follett and Smith, who said: "Judge us on what we say; below, Brinton, and McIssac, who said: "We try to look professional"

Miss Widdecombe shops in Mrs Mop in her Maidstone constituency and at the Army & Navy in London, and wears light unobtrusive make-up. She admits that her lipstick has faded by the middle of the afternoon and always forgets to replace it. When women were scarcer at Westminster, power-dressing was taken to its extreme with exaggerated shoulder pads, cardigans, pearls and towering, heavily lacquered Thatcher hairstyles. Baroness Thatcher immortalised the don't-show-your-knees skirt. But power suits are now being overtaken by psychedlic pink T-shirts and high-heeled shoes by some at the cutting edge of fashion. Tory MPs have dubbed some of the older Labour women "mutton dressed as glam", and one Tory woman said: "The trouble is with some of the new girls they seem more interested in the labels and looking good on television than they do on the legislation. They spend ages in front of the mirror."

But the Labour women were unrepentant. Angela Smith, the new Labour MP for Basildon and East Thurrock, laughed out loud when told of Miss Widdecombe's comments, and said: "Ann Widdecombe has fallen into the classic trap of criticising women because of their appearance rather than on what they say. I don't know what the wrong skirt is or the wrong pair of shoes.

"She is a silly woman. I personally am not a mini-skirt person. But I am surprised that she of all people says these things. I feel sorry for her because she has had to endure some very hurtful things about her own appearance."

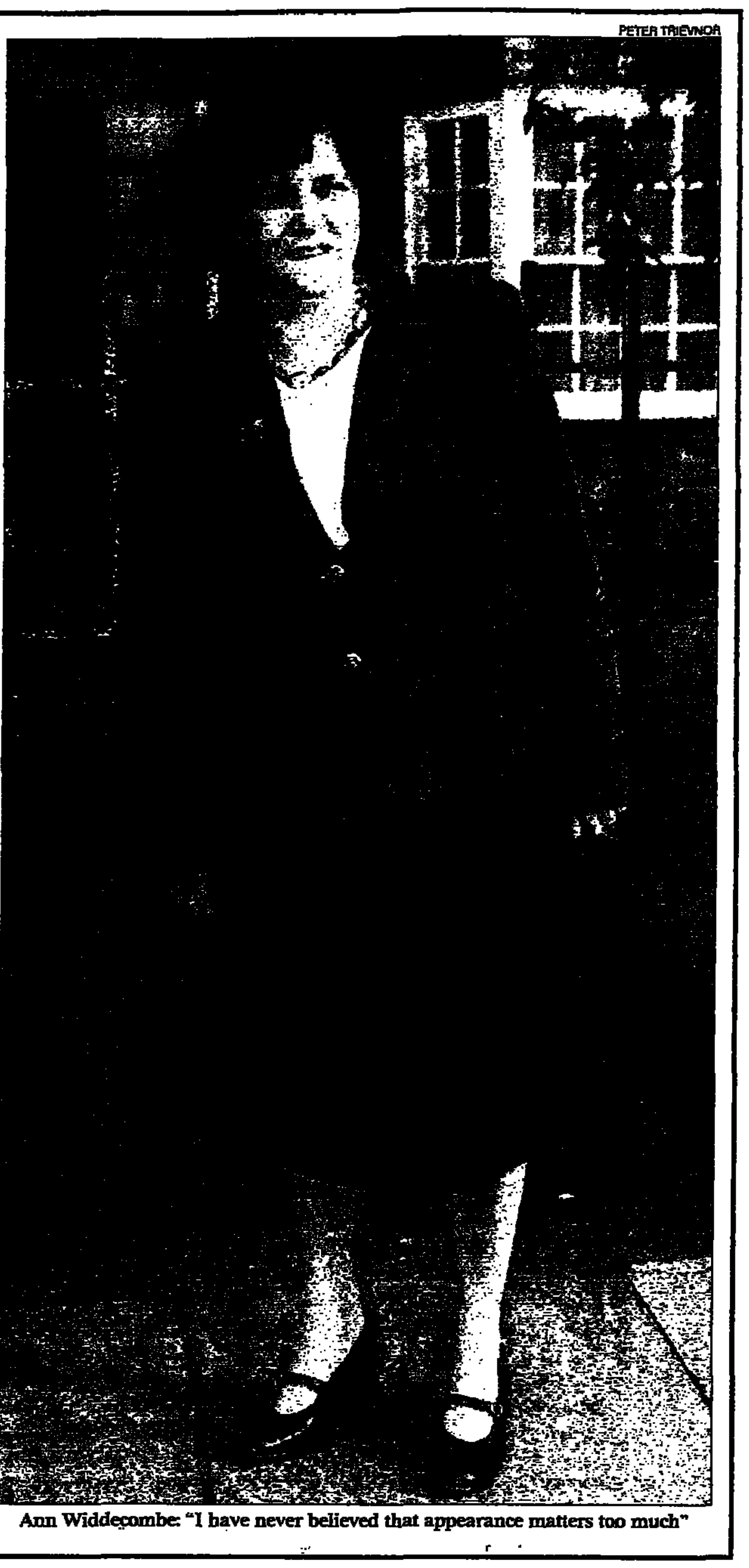
Helen Brinton, the MP for Peterborough who has found herself the regular butt of sexual gibes from Tory males, said: "We can mix it and match it just as well as Ann Widdecombe. We don't need lectures on our clothes sense from her, as if what we wear matters anyway. Ann Widdecombe is proof of the pudding. We are judged on our actions. I would not dream of commenting on her dress sense. I shouldn't think anyone would."

The most popular new Labour look was pioneered by Barbara Follet, now MP for Stevenage, who once colour-coded Labour frontbenchers such as Margaret Beckett, and wears matching two-piece suits in brights reds, greens and yellows, with accessories to match. Many favour comfortable trouser suits.

Shona McIsaac, 37, the MP for Cleethorpes, summed up the new image on her first day in the Commons, with a camel trouser-suit, leopard skin polo-neck, and dark brown brogues with fake snakeskin accessories. She said: "Some of the younger women, because of their age, naturally wear clothes which are perceived to be more fashionable. But all of us try to look professional."

Miss Widdecombe, who has been dubbed Doris Karloff by her political enemies, said that she took comments about her appearance in her stride: "I can take it. They can't. That is the difference. Westminster is a serious place, not a fashion show."

PETER TRIEVNOR



Ann Widdecombe: "I have never believed that appearance matters too much"

Critics look back in anger on Oasis brothers' latest outburst

By Damian Whitworth

IF they had been seeking to provoke a reaction they succeeded. Noel and Liam Gallagher served up some old-fashioned rock star loutishness and there were calls for heads to roll yesterday.

The BBC offered apologies and promised investigations, Downing Street made a statement, MPs howled with outrage and one of the brothers chased after reporters while Tony Blackburn offered to fight them in the street.

Trouble started, as often seems to be the way, when Liam Gallagher opened his mouth. He was live on air and the words that issued forth, on the subject of George Harrison and Mick Jagger, were unfit for 8pm. He became so heated during the interview on Radio 1's *Evening Session* on Thursday that he stormed out of the studio. His brother Noel added to the controversy by advocating the legalisation of cannabis.

The BBC apologised and said that it had launched an investigation. Andy Parfitt, Radio 1's deputy controller, was meeting Steve Lamacq, the presenter of the show, and his producer about what happened.

Liam, left, and Noel Gallagher: turned airwaves blue

A spokesman for Radio 1 said that only Noel had been expected for the interview, but he had turned up with Liam in tow. "Steve Lamacq and his producer made every effort behind the scenes to stop them from swearing. I think he did everything he could to try to calm things down, and eventually Liam decided to leave the studio."

Roger Gale, chairman of the Conservative backbench Media Committee, and a former Radio 1 producer, said the corporation had acted irresponsibly. "When a person has a reputation for behaving in ... an immature fashion, you don't bother to give them airtime. It's not the BBC's or radio's job to give public airtime to foul-mouthed self-publicists."

Brian Iddon, Labour MP for Bolton South East, the constituency in which five-year-old Dillon Hull was shot dead in a drugs feud, told the BBC's *World at One* that he wished Noel Gallagher had not been invited to Downing Street by Tony Blair.

Downing Street issued a statement to the programme: "The Government is not in the business of legitimising drugs. There is no association with Noel Gallagher's remarks."

Journalists who approached Liam yesterday did so at their peril. The Press Association reported an encounter between reporters and the singer outside his house. Met with a string of obscenities and informed where he planned to put their cameras, they were chased down the street.

Tony Blackburn, the disc jockey, said: "Let's face it — they are a cheap copy band of the Beatles and so juvenile. And all this business about 'offering people out' — well, I'm outside the Capital Radio studios just after 10am every weekday if they want to show how tough they are."

Quiet passing for reading room

Robin Young sees the end of an era for the British Museum's haven

THE 140-year history of the Round Reading Room at the British Museum is ending not with a bang, nor even a whisper. As befits a space devoted to the pursuit of silent study, the room is reaching the end of an era almost soundlessly.

The reading room closes today, but few readers are expected to be there for the final hours. Even yesterday, fewer than a third of the 375 readers' seats were occupied.

Things were very different when the room first opened to the public in 1857. Then, Antonio Panizzi, its creator and the British Museum's keeper of printed books, recorded that more than 162,000 visitors came to see it in the first week.

Now, the British Library staff, despite its preoccupation with removing 12 million books and myriad other collections to the new premises at St Pancras, is quietly admitting small parties for a parting glimpse of the room.

In the new dispensation at the British Museum the room is destined to become an information centre housing the museum's own Paul Hamlyn library of 25,000 volumes. In its new role the area will be open for the use of all the museum's visitors.

"He couldn't put it down"

"There is a great deal of sadness," said Michael Crump, the British Library's director of reader services and collections development. "But we have given our readers good notice. As far as the move goes, we are doing brilliantly. We are even two weeks ahead of schedule." That is small compensation for those few who find that the reading room is now closed and that its St Pancras replacement does not open until November 24. Raoul Jimenez, from Caracas, said: "I have come all the way from Venezuela. I wanted to research the British role in Venezuelan history. For me it is a disaster."

The move is also regarded with some concern by the coffee bars, restaurants and bookshops surrounding the British Museum. "We had the most learned dining tables in London," said a manager at the Coptic Street branch of Pizza Express. "Our singles tables were regularly occupied by great scholars from all over the world and now we will not be seeing them again."

Famous reading room users of the past include Karl Marx, Gandhi, Lenin, Thomas Hardy, Rudyard Kipling, and George Bernard Shaw.

Leading article, page 23
New library,
Magazine, page 42

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Teen mag enables girls to fight on

By Damian Whitworth

THE first authorised boxing match between two girls has been sponsored by a magazine for teenage girls.

Bliss **will pay a Carmarthenshire boxing club £300 towards the event next week.**

Kerry Parnell, the Editor, said: "If there's a meaning to girl power, this is it. It is not just a nonsense publicity stunt by girls wearing hardly any clothes."

Marie Leefe and Marie Davies from St Clears, Carmarthenshire, are billed to fight two girls from Cornwall and Cardigan, but if either opponent drops out they are determined to fight each other.

Earlier this month two 13-year-olds were due to fight but one pulled out at the last minute because of controversy.

Venables lied in court, judge says

By A Staff Reporter

A JUDGE yesterday accused Terry Venables of lying on oath as he jailed the former England football coach's closest friend and righthand man. Eddie Ashby was found guilty of managing Tottenham Hotspur and Mr Venables's drinking club in the West End of London while an undischarged bankrupt.

Judge Timothy Pontius said that at best Mr Venables's evidence was "fanciful", but he believed the former England boss had intended "deliberately and dishonestly" to mislead the jury at Knightsbridge Crown Court.

Last night Mr Venables said he was appalled at the judge's remarks. "For the judge to condemn me in the way he has leaves me feeling very bitter towards a system which appears to have convicted me in a case in which I was not on trial. I cannot establish what, in my evidence, the judge took to be dishonest and do not believe he can have considered the effect his unfounded comments will have on me."

Mr Venables had stood in the witness box for two days, detailing his relationship with Ashby, 53, who in recent months had followed him to Portsmouth FC, which Venables bought for £1. He said: "Eddie has never let me down and that is why he is with me today."

Ashby was declared bankrupt in June 1991 and described his job at the North London club as no more than "a glorified secretary". In fact he was paid up to £96,000, which he did not declare to his creditors. Neither did he declare the money he received from working at Scribes West night club.

Mr Venables said that he did not know that Ashby was a bankrupt when he asked him to work at Spurs and at his Kensington club. He said it was "absolute nonsense" and "very annoying" to suggest Ashby had any management role while Venables was the chief executive at White Hart Lane. "He did not make decisions, he did what I told him."

Ashby: sent to jail for four months

Ashby already had 43 failed companies behind him when he began chairing management meetings at Spurs and signing letters as "general manager". The court was told that he hired and fired staff and authorised salary rises.

Ashby grimaced yesterday as the judge jailed him for four months, saying: "I take the view that little more than a salutory clanging of the prison doors is necessary." Judge Pontius said that he had reduced the original sentence he had had in mind "as an act of mercy, to enable you to be released to your family in time for Christmas".

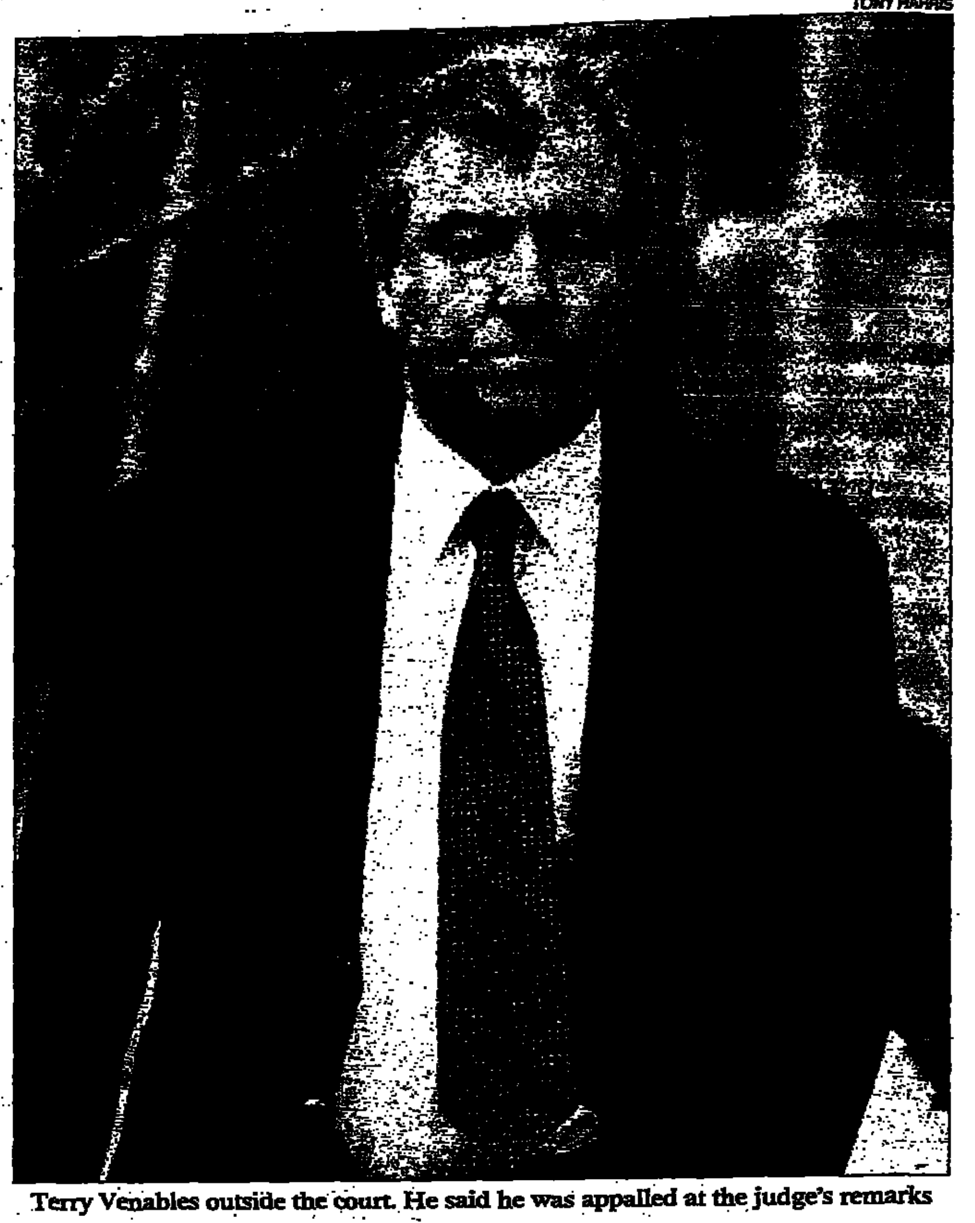
Ashby was disqualified from being a company director for seven years. This will run alongside the nine-year ban imposed 13 months ago by the High Court.

The judge told him: "It is a regrettable and sad aspect of this case that you, a person of impeccable character hitherto, chose blatantly to give perjured evidence before the jury and, more seriously, to call as a witness on your behalf your boss, Terry Venables, to give evidence which the jury plainly found to be at best fanciful and at worst intended by you both to deliberately and dishonestly mislead them as to the true position. I have not the slightest hesitation myself in preferring the second view."

Court officials said last night that no action was contemplated against Mr Venables. The judge's clerk said if he had planned such a move, he would have announced it in open court.

Ashby is to appeal.

TONY HARRIS



Terry Venables outside the court. He said he was appalled at the judge's remarks

EXAMPLE: A COUPLE MOVING HOME (MALE AND FEMALE) BOTH NON-SMOKERS, AGED 29, APPLYING FOR A FIXED RATE MORTGAGE OF £43,500 LINKED TO A PEP POLICY SECURED OVER 25 YEARS ON A PROPERTY WITH A PURCHASE PRICE OF £58,000. MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENT NET OF TAX RELIEF £203.64. 300 MONTHLY PAYMENTS. MONTHLY PEP PREMIUM £70.48. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £114,141, INCLUDES CONVEYANCER'S CHARGES £117.50, MORTGAGE DISCHARGE FEE £40, CHARGE FOR DESPATCH OF TITLE DEEDS £15, ARRANGEMENT FEE OF £195 AND INITIAL INTEREST OF £127.40 ASSUMING COMPLETION ON 16.12.97. NO PROVISION FOR EARLY REPAYMENT HAS BEEN MADE. IN CALCULATING THE APR, THE EXAMPLE ASSUMES A RATE OF 6.45% 6.7% APR APPLIES THROUGHOUT THE MORTGAGE TERM. HOWEVER AT THE END OF THE FIXED RATE PERIOD THE STANDARD VARIABLE BASE RATE WILL APPLY WHICH IS CURRENTLY 8.45%. WE HAVE ALSO ASSUMED THAT A VALUATION FEE OF £165 HAS BEEN WAIVED. RATES QUOTED ARE VARIABLE AFTER 31.01.2003. APR SHOWN IS TYPICAL FOR A PEP MORTGAGE FOR 25 YEARS. †LOAN PERCENTAGE REFERS TO THE LOAN AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OR VALUATION, WHICHEVER IS LOWER. FOR LOANS OVER 75% UP TO 95% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OR VALUATION, THE RATE OF INTEREST IS 6.85% 7.2% APR. ALL FIXED RATES DEPEND ON THE LOAN AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OR VALUATION, WHICHEVER IS LOWER, AND THE FIXED RATE PERIOD. OUR STANDARD VARIABLE BASE RATE WILL APPLY AFTER THE FIXED RATE PERIOD. AN ARRANGEMENT FEE WILL BE PAYABLE EXCEPT FOR EXISTING HALIFAX MORTGAGE CUSTOMERS MOVING HOME - SEE YOUR LOCAL OFFICE FOR DETAILS. A REPAYMENT FEE IS PAYABLE IF THE MORTGAGE IS REPAID OR TRANSFERRED TO AN ALTERNATIVE PRODUCT BEFORE 31.05.2005. PART REPAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO PAYMENT OF A PROPORTION OF THE REPAYMENT FEE - SEE YOUR LOCAL OFFICE FOR DETAILS. ††A FREE SCHEME I VALUATION, UP TO A MAXIMUM OF £405, IS ONLY AVAILABLE FOR MORTGAGE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 31.12.97. FOR SCOTLAND THE COST OF A FREE SCHEME I VALUATION (LESS £25 ADMINISTRATION FEE) WILL BE REFUNDED ON RECEIPT OF COMPLETED MORTGAGE APPLICATION FORMS. *THE 10% CASHBACK IS ONLY AVAILABLE ON PICKFORDS PROFESSIONAL MOVES COSTING MORE THAN £350 (INCLUDING VAT AND TRANSIT INSURANCE) FOR EXISTING HALIFAX plc CUSTOMERS WHO MAKE THEIR MORTGAGE APPLICATION THROUGH A HALIFAX BRANCH. THE MORTGAGE APPLICATION MUST BE MADE AND PICKFORDS MUST BE INSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE THE PROFESSIONAL MOVE BETWEEN 2ND APRIL 1997 AND 2ND APRIL 1998. THE OFFER IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND DOES NOT APPLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER PICKFORDS OFFER. IT DOES NOT APPLY IF SOMEONE ELSE (FOR EXAMPLE YOUR EMPLOYER) IS PAYING THE COST OF YOUR MOVE, OR FOR MOVES ABROAD, OR PICKFORDS SELFMOVE. THE MAXIMUM CASHBACK AVAILABLE IS £400. PICKFORDS WILL SEND YOU THE CASHBACK CHEQUE WITHIN 21 DAYS AFTER YOU MOVE IN PROVIDED YOU HAVE PAID PICKFORDS' CHARGES BEFORE YOU MOVE. FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS WILL BE CONTAINED WITHIN THE PICKFORDS QUOTATION. THE PICKFORDS PROFESSIONAL MOVE SERVICE IS PROVIDED BY PICKFORDS LIMITED. HALIFAX plc ACTS ONLY AS AN INTRODUCER. ALL PRODUCTS AND OTHER OFFERS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND MAY BE WITHDRAWN WITHOUT NOTICE. MAXIMUM LOAN 95% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OR VALUATION, WHICHEVER IS LOWER (75% FOR SECOND HOME LOANS AND EXPATRIATE MORTGAGES). LOWER LIMITS APPLY WHERE THE PURCHASE PRICE AND VALUATION EXCEED £150,000. ADDITIONAL MORTGAGE SECURITY IS REQUIRED IF THE LOAN EXCEEDS OUR BASIC LENDING LIMIT OF 75% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OR VALUATION, WHICHEVER IS LOWER, FOR WHICH A FEE WILL BE CHARGED. NOT AVAILABLE TO REMORTGAGE CUSTOMERS OR EXISTING CUSTOMERS WISHING TO RENEGOTIATE TERMS. LOANS MUST BE SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, ARE SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED ON AN APPLICANT'S EXISTING PROPERTY MUST NORMALLY BE REPAID ON OR BEFORE COMPLETION OF THE NEW MORTGAGE. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST FROM YOUR LOCAL OFFICE OR HALIFAX plc, TRINITY ROAD, HALIFAX, WEST YORKSHIRE HX1 2RG.

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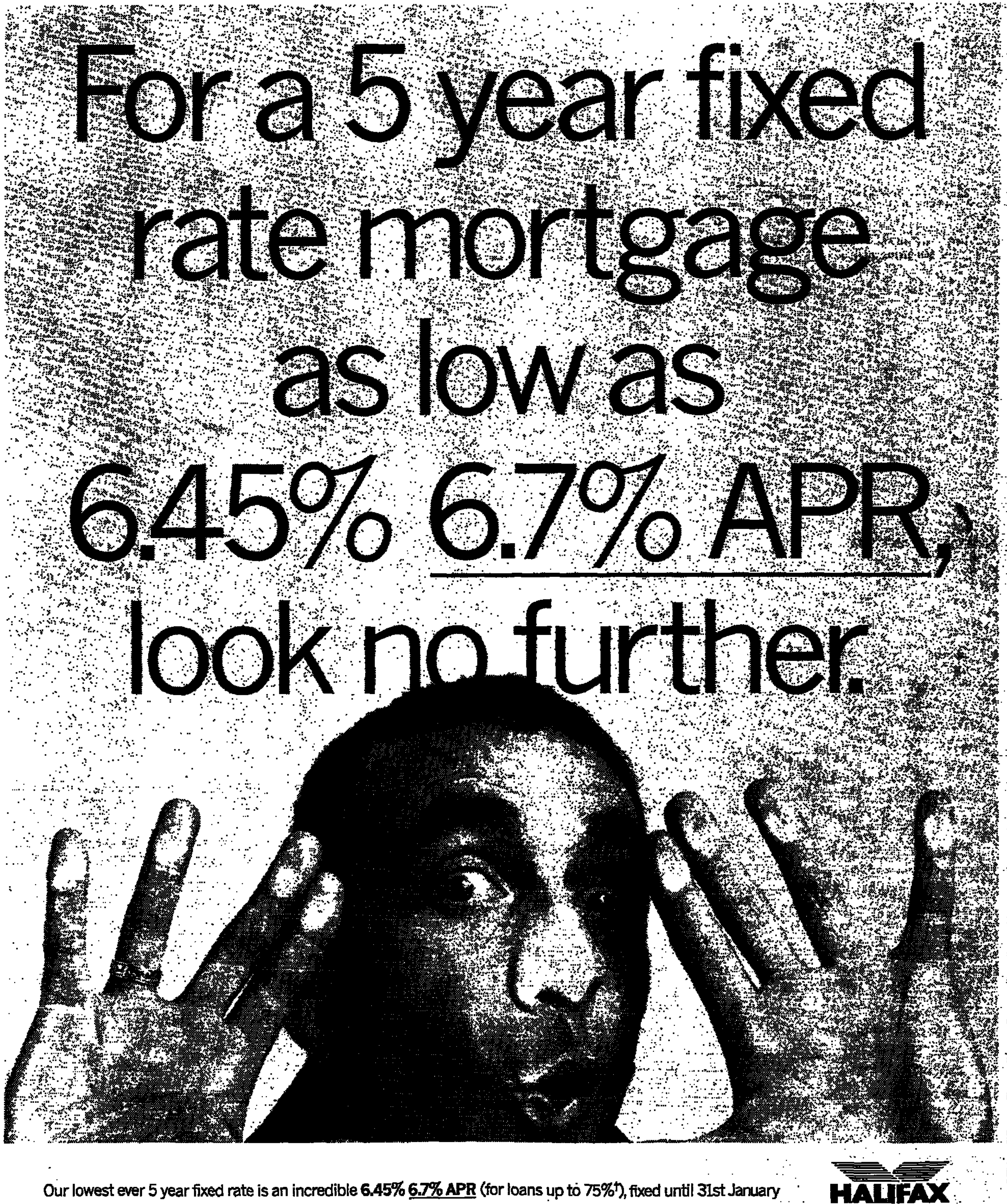
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Get a little extra help.

Terrorism expert is blown up by war souvenir

By Tim Jones

AN EXPERT on warfare and counter-terrorism has been killed by a battlefield souvenir that exploded at his home.

John Pimlott, 49, the head of War Studies at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, was discovered by his wife yesterday morning lying dead in the sitting room of their bungalow in Camberley, Surrey.

Described as a brilliant and inspiring man, he was the author of what were considered to be definitive books on warfare. He was recently featured in the Channel 4 series *Decisive Battles*.

Last night an army spokesman said: "This seems to have been a tragic accident. The device that exploded may not have been as big as a grenade. It may have been a rusting and seemingly innocuous piece of ordnance such as an old and apparently harmless detonator.

"Dr Pimlott made numerous tours of old battlefields and he may have picked up this item to remind him of a trip to El Alamein or some other famous site."

After his wife raised the alarm, police and army bomb disposal experts went to the home and houses in the area were evacuated as police searched for more explosives.

One neighbour, Les Brown, had heard a small explosion before midnight but had thought it was a firework going off. He said: "I didn't check it out because you expect to hear such bangs at this time of year."

Damage to the bungalow was minor with only a small window blown out.

Police officers who examined the home disovered a huge array of military memorabilia but none of it was found to be dangerous.

Dr Pimlott, a father of two, was a civilian lecturer at Sandhurst for 24 years. He was made head of his department in 1994. Last night, Matthew Midlane, the director of studies at Sandhurst, described Dr Pimlott as a "brilliant and inspiring man". His books included *The Gulf War Assessed*, *Decisive Battles of the Vietnam War* and *The Guinness History of the British Army*. His specialist areas were counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism.

Mr Midlane said: "He was extremely well-known for his prolific output with popular writings on almost any aspect of 20th-century warfare. He brought serious military history to a much wider audience."

He added: "Despite his distinguished record in research and writing, he always considered himself primarily a teacher."

Pimlott: brought military studies to wider public

Two appear in court over car crash deaths

TWO men appeared in court yesterday charged in connection with the deaths of a young couple in a car crash.

Jason Humble and Keith Collier, both of Farnborough, Hampshire, were remanded in custody by magistrates in Feltham, West London. Mr Humble, 32, was charged with manslaughter after Toby Exley and Karen Martin died on October 6. The couple's car crossed the central reservation of the A316 and smashed into an oncoming car.

Mr Collier, 49, was charged with assisting an offender by falsely reporting to police the theft of a vehicle knowing it had been involved in a fatal accident, with intent to impede the apprehension or prosecution of a person who had committed the arrestable offence of manslaughter.

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How Benllech's 'Randy Rev' fell from grace

Russell Jenkins on a village rumour mill that took years to grind out an unpalatable truth

THE Rector of Benllech has been known in the Welsh seaside village as the "Randy Rev" for more than a decade. Villagers grew used to seeing his car parked outside the home of one or another of his women parishioners.

Rumours circulated among clergy in the Church in Wales about the Rev Clifford Williams's sexual adventures among his flock faster than his reputation for building his mission at St Andrew's Church on the back of charismatic leadership.

The whispers reached the ears of the then Archdeacon of Meirionnydd, Dr Barry Morgan, who, five years ago, was appointed Bishop of Bangor and on whose desk the scandal charges have been burning a sulphurous hole for more than a year.

Dr Morgan, along with other church leaders, came to believe that Mr Williams's sexual conquests were the outward manifestations of a cult comparable with the sexual terror dispensed by the Rev Chris Brain, the minister at the centre of scandal over the Nine O'Clock News Service, who expelled anyone who came into conflict with him, denounced his enemies from the pulpit and interpreted his role as pastor as a sexual licence among middle-aged parishioners he came to think of as his "wives".

The real victims of the quaint proceedings of the Provincial Court — which has made the Church in Wales a laughing stock and cost £100,000 — are the "hard core" of loyalists who remain utterly convinced that their leader is more sinned against than sinning. Dr Morgan said: "It will take a long time to heal the wounds because you don't recover from this sort of thing in a day or even a week. It will take years, I think, because the wounds have gone very deep. Some feel deeply betrayed."

Mr Williams was a late entry into the priesthood, leaving his early calling as a painter and decorator to pursue his vocation. He was ordained in 1980 at the age of 32, served two years as a curate at Caernarvon before becoming Rector of the parish of Llanfair Mathafarn Eithaf with Llanbedrgoch in 1982.

Bishop of Bangor: feared another cult

His supporters speak about how he galvanised the congregation at St Andrew's Church — an uninspiring grey pebble dash block on Benllech's one main road — with his sense of mission and his modern interpretation of the Gospels. He and his childhood sweetheart Gwenda raised their three sons, Alan, now 26, Paul, 21, and Matthew, 16, in a two-storey rectory overlooking the bay.

Mr Williams, a "touchy feely" vicar known as Uncle Clifford to his younger flock, was at the centre of a growing and vibrant church. At the same time the rumours began to circulate that he was an adulterer who sought to manipulate people's lives.

At least two husbands blamed the rector for the break-up of their marriages but it was not until Iris Green, vulnerable and unpredictable, came to live in Tyn-y-Gongl, Benllech, in 1989 that the volatile mixture of muscular Christianity and extramarital affairs ignited.

Dr Morgan says Mr Williams abused his position as parish priest, going "far beyond the boundaries". "The Rev Chris Brain had people in the palm of his hand," said Dr Morgan. "It can happen. It is a fact that over the years anyone who disagreed with him [Williams] in the church has left to go to neighbouring parishes; among them a curate, an organist and church warden.

"He seems to have power and influence over people to an inordinate degree. For some people, perhaps, it becomes so much a part of them — it gives them power, status and privilege — they forget they are there to serve the Church of God."

Another senior churchman described the rector as a dangerous "Svengali" who nakedly sought power in the small, very Welsh community under the guise of the charming clergyman with the Anthony Hopkins voice. He enjoyed domination and ruthlessly snuffed out any opposition.

A senior Church source in Wales described the case as more serious than someone just having sex. "Clifford Williams is an intensely evil man," he said. "You had there a charismatic priest and, certainly, this man could swing it with women. His scheme was divide and rule. His motivation clearly has to be power over women.

"It clearly has to be power which has to be absolute and which has been for his sexual gratification. Some of the women he knows simply bow down before him. His supporters are verging on being disciples."

IOLO WILLIAMS

The Rev Clifford Williams arriving at the court yesterday. He was later found guilty of conducting an adulterous affair

'Just cause for scandal or offence'

Continued from page 1

for him, nor do we eat together. I regard the marriage as at an end. I anticipate instigating divorce proceedings in the near future. Finally, as a result of the break-down, I have found a new relationship."

Lord Thomas, QC, counsel for the bishop, told the court in his closing address that the case has demonstrated the courage of Iris Green on one hand and the cowardice of Mr Williams on the other. "The Rev Clifford Williams has led a double life; a life of service to the community and to his parishioners and has clearly won the support of very decent people, some of whom are here today perhaps not fully understanding of the other side of his life, which was a life of deceit and of lies."

Lord Thomas highlighted Mrs Green's diaries and the notes he left at her house as overwhelming evidence against him. One note, urging Mrs Green to "keep Thursday bonk-free for me", showed he was going to her house to have sex.

Eric Somerset Jones, QC, for the rector, said the defence was one of complete denial "lock, stock and barrel". Mrs Green was obsessional and the kind of woman who wrote "disgusting pornographic letters" to a pen friend. He said there was evidence from one of the parishioners that she had written erotic stories.

In the case of Anne Williams, the court found the rector did not "on the balance of probabilities" give just cause for offence by having "improper" relations.

Clergy divorce rate has caught up with society

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE number of divorces among the clergy is now the same as in secular society, according to Broken Rites, an independent organisation that was set up to help divorced and separated partners of the clergy.

About four in ten clergy marriages can now be expected to end in divorce, even though the Church of England still holds that marriage is for life and does not recognise that marriages can be dissolved.

Christine McMullen, secretary of Broken Rites, which has 300 divorced and separated clergy wives on its books, and hundreds more who contact it occasionally for help and advice, said clergy marriages often collapsed because of the unique pressures of the job.

Clergy wives are particularly vulnerable when marriages break up near or after retirement. Under church pension rules, a divorced clergy wife is not entitled to any of her former husband's pension. Mrs McMullen, whose own marriage to a clergyman broke up eight years ago, said: "Sometimes it is harder for families in the vicarage to have close personal friends in the parish because the personal and professional life of the husband gets a bit confused.

"The expectations put on families are sometimes so way out. Lots of people's husbands go off and have affairs, but the press is not really interested unless there is a clergyman involved.

"There is often pressure to carry on with a stiff upper lip, to collude with what is going on. We are less likely to shred his shirts, change the locks or refuse to let him in than if we were not living in a vicarage. There is this thing as well that we are Christians, and that we are forgiving."

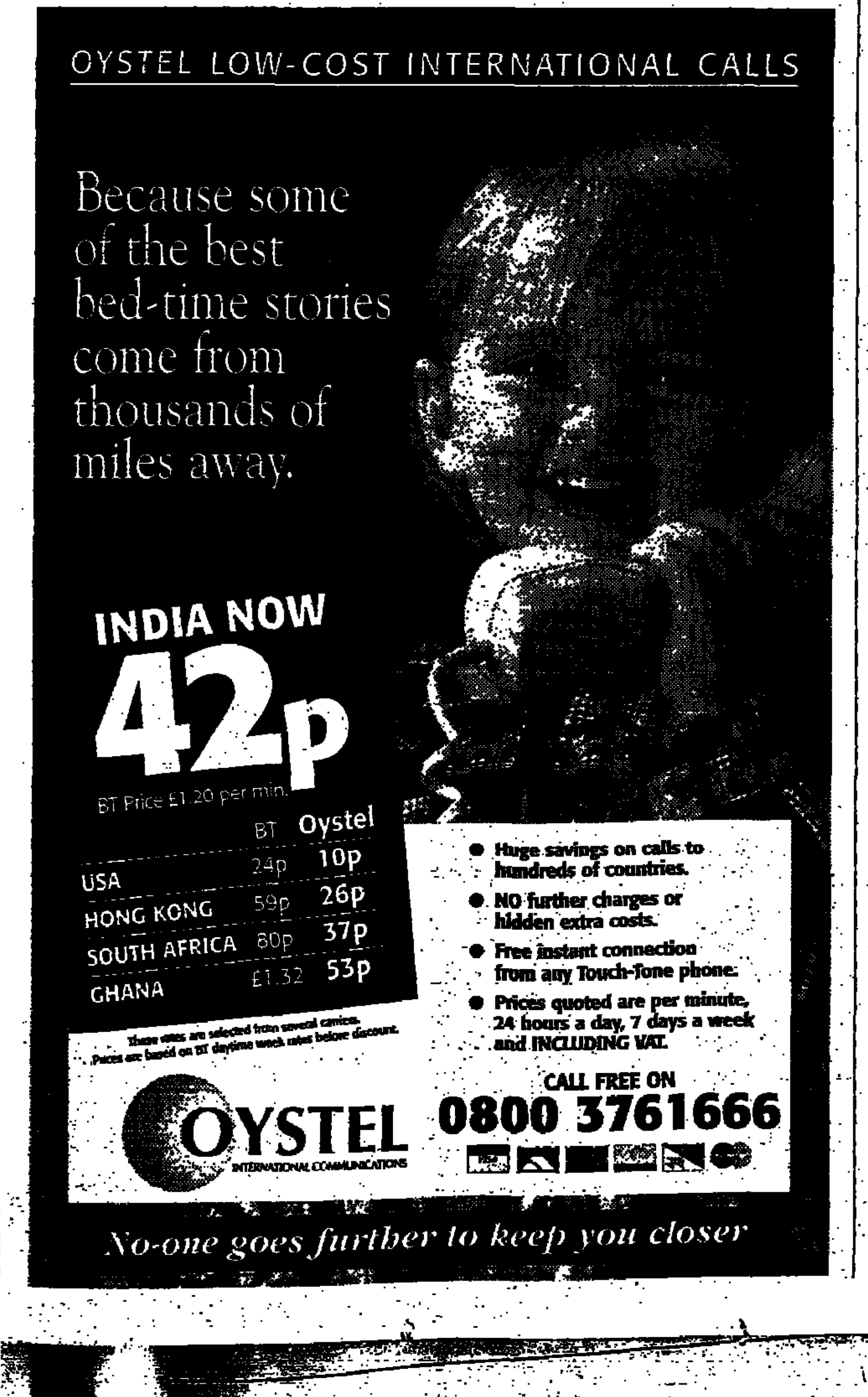
Although clergy training was improving, theological colleges still left them unprepared for the pressures of a mid-life crisis, or of failing to achieve their ambitions to become archdeacons or bishops.

"There is an expectation that clergy will be counsellors and freely available at all times for people in need," Mrs McMullen said.

"There has to be some degree of self-giving and of sharing your partner with people.

"But I am not sure that all clergy are quite clear in their minds about where the boundaries of professional behaviour begin and end.

"They might have a moment of self-doubt in mid-life, of wondering whether they will ever be made an archdeacon, and not realise that this makes them vulnerable when someone comes in to see them in deep distress who happens to be marriageable and attractive."



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Umbria, home of the arts, pleads for aid

Richard Owen reports from Spoleto that damage done by recent earthquakes is far worse than first thought

The exterior of Spoleto's 11th-century cathedral. The archbishop says £1 million is needed to shore it up

SPOLETO CATHEDRAL / PHAIDON

In imminent danger: Fra Filippo Lippi's *Coronation of the Virgin* (1469), which is painted in the apse semidome of Spoleto Cathedral

Details from the *Coronation*, Filippo Lippi's masterpiece of his last years: left, two angels dancing and, right, the Virgin with God the Father

With shock and concern still reverberating a month after the earthquake that severely damaged the Basilica of St Francis at Assisi, it is emerging that far many more art treasures in Umbria are at serious risk than was previously thought.

They include the great cathedral at Spoleto, famed for its summer arts festival, and world-renowned Renaissance frescoes at Montefalco.

"Umbria, home of the arts, is weeping and deeply wounded," *La Repubblica* said. "It is not just Assisi which has been shaken by the tremors. We need to raise the alarm." The Archbishop of Spoleto, Mgr Riccardo Fontana, said recent inspections showed that the 11th-century Duomo, or cathedral, had suffered very serious damage in the continuing tremors.

Archbishop Fontana is aggrieved that destruction in the Spoleto area has been overshadowed. "The Bishop of Assisi naturally has had a lot to say about the damage there," he said. "But nobody can say that this part of Umbria is worse off than that part, or deserves more help. Four villages in my diocese, including Sellano, the epicentre of the recent earthquakes, have been destroyed. The earthquakes shake the whole mountain."

The epicentre of the earthquakes, initially near Foligno, has moved gradually south, with tremors felt in Rome and even Naples. There were further strong tremors at Sellano on Thursday and yesterday. The Archbishop's Palace in Spoleto has been declared uninhabitable, and Mgr Fontana, who for the first few nights of the crisis slept in his car, like thousands of other residents, has taken refuge in a nearby monastery.

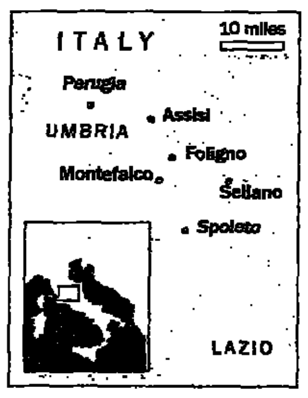
Perched high on a hill, Spoleto was once the centre of a powerful duchy, until it was sacked by Barbarossa in 1155. It revived in the 16th century when Lucrezia Borgia was made governor at the age of 19 by her father, Pope Alexander VI. Its modern fame rests on the Festival of Two Worlds, the music, dance and theatre festival founded by Giancarlo Menotti in 1958, which attracts world-class performers and well-heeled audiences to match. Gala concerts are held in the cathedral.

Two of the four pillars holding up the cathedral cupola have sagged and a third is badly cracked. Art experts and engineers say the fall of the cupola would destroy priceless frescoes by the Florentine artist Fra Filippo Lippi (1406-69), above all the masterpiece of his final years, his *Coronation of the Virgin* (1469), which is painted in the apse semidome.

The cathedral also contains the painter's tomb: a friar, he was accused of seducing a girl from a noted local family and is said to have been murdered by her relations. He did his last work at Spoleto, including a series of frescoes in the choir which are also now thought to be at risk: *The Annunciation, The Birth of Christ* and *The Death of Mary*.

The cathedral's medieval buttresses are fractured and the façade, with a giant mosaic depicting Christ Pantocrator, dated 1207, has come away from the fabric of the building. There are fissures in the 15th-century Eroli chapels (named after the bishop of the time, Costantino Eroli), which contain frescoes by Pinturicchio (1455-1513), including a Madonna and Child with Lake Trasimeno — one of the best-loved spots in Umbria — shown clearly in the background.

"Something must be done immediately," the archbishop said. "The walls, pilasters and buttresses are tilting, the stability of the entire building is threatened." He said Spoleto needed £1 million "to shore it up and avoid the worst. It is a race against time; we are worried about new tremors." Nearly 800 churches in the Spoleto diocese "of artistic and historic importance" have been closed for inspection. There is also concern for the spectacular medieval aqueduct across the gorge beyond the cathedral, the Ponte delle Torri, which is 260 yards long and supported by ten 260ft-high arches.



Twelve miles north, nearer to the epicentre of the first earthquakes at Foligno, emergency measures have been taken to save the 15th-century frescoes at Montefalco by Benozzo Gozzoli (1420-97), which were restored only seven years ago. The works depict scenes from the life of St Francis, inspired by Giotto's frescoes at Assisi, with recognisable Umbrian and Tuscan landscapes in the background. Montefalco is famed for its views — it is dubbed "The Balcony of Umbria" — and its Sangrantino wine is one of the most prized reds in Italy.

But its glory is the former Church of San Francesco, now the town museum. In addition to works by Gozzoli, who, like Lippi was a Florentine genius, the former church boasts an Annunciation and Nativity by Perugino, and frescoes from the school of Giotto.

The campaign to preserve Montefalco's treasures is being led by Luigi Gambacurta, the Mayor, who teaches literature at the local secondary school and speaks of Gozzoli as if he were still alive. Signor Gambacurta is praised as a local hero for his swift action in shoring up the frescoes when the first earthquake struck.

"The first shock was in the middle of the night," he recalled. "At first light I went to the school to check it was all right. Then I rushed to San Francesco and was horrified to see the amount of plaster that had fallen in the apse." He asked art restorers from Spoleto to to erect scaffolding to support the nave, with the help of local carpenters. "We got it in place just before the second earthquake struck at 11.42, the same one that brought down the ceiling at Assisi. Here the scaffolding swayed, but it held."

The museum is planning to take visitors up onto the scaffolding to see how restoration work on Gozzoli's masterpieces is proceeding.

However, there is still protective gauze over the frescoes and there are fears for the roof, in particular for the vault above the apse, whose ribs were reinforced with iron bars after an earthquake earlier in the century.

"Many jewels of art in Umbria are at risk, but the pity is that not many Italians are aware of them," Paola Manuali, a guide at San Francesco, said. "We get 20,000 visitors a year at the museum, but many of them are foreigners on the Umbrian art trail." Signor Menotti said that he hoped to organise a concert at Spoleto with top-class performers to raise funds for restoration.

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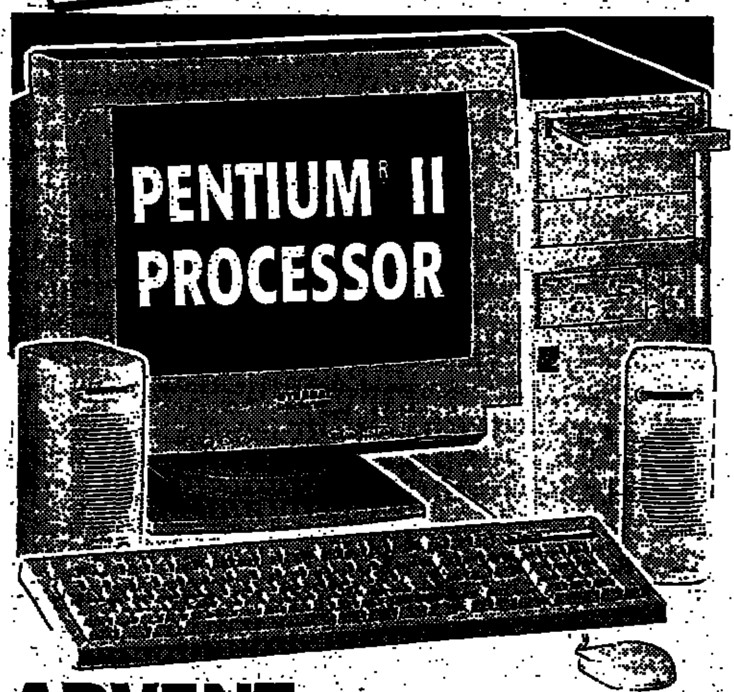

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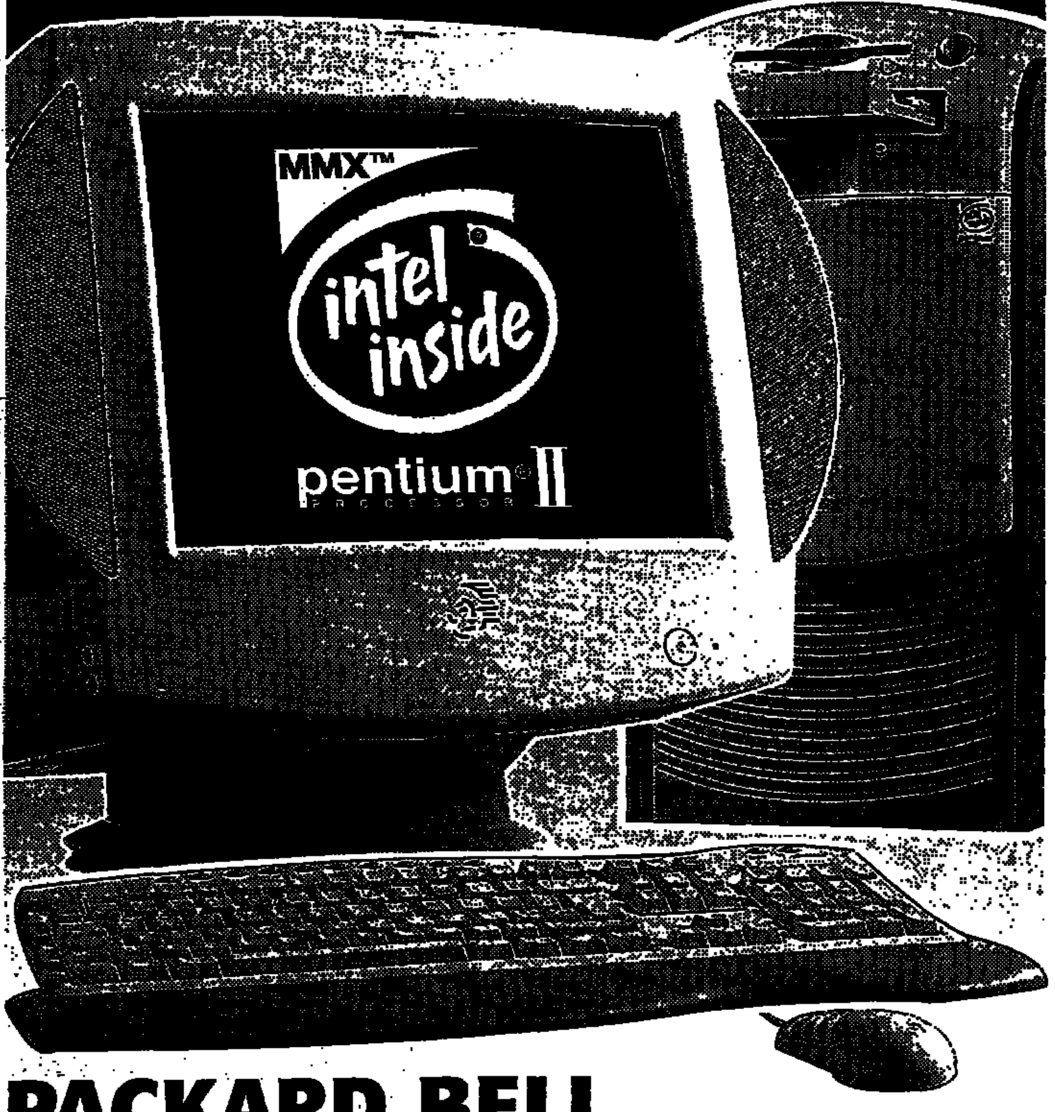

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Threatened dormouse sent packing

Tunnel rail link is a moving experience for wildlife, reports **Simon de Bruxelles**

BEATRIX POTTER would have been dismayed to learn that since the start of the summer, in conditions of the utmost secrecy, some of our shyest and most attractive residents have been rounded up and put in cages.

She would have been relieved, however, to discover that they are being moved because they live on the route of the new high-speed rail link to the Channel Tunnel.

Top of the wanted list is a creature most people will never see but everyone loves — the common dormouse. The line from London will cut a swath through some of the best "dormouse woods" in Britain. Nearly 100 of the creatures have been caught and dispatched to a dormouse dormitory in the West Country.

Kent's loss is the rest of the country's gain. Once the mice have slept through the winter, they will be released in woods in three English counties where dormice were common 100 years ago but have since disappeared.

Douglas Woods, 76, a naturalist who has devoted the past 18 years to studying and breeding the creatures, is in charge of the operation. Until he discovered in the early 1980s that the best way to find a dormouse was to provide a house for it, little was known about its habits.

Although the dormouse's tight, round nest is occasionally found in undergrowth by woodsmen, doormice are rarely seen and leave few clues to their existence. Mr Woods, from Cheddar, Somerset, said: "Dormice are nocturnal and spend virtually all their time in the trees. They might range from the topmost branches of the highest oak down to bracken, but they never set foot on the ground unless it is by accident or to hibernate.

"You could visit a dormouse wood every day and never see one. Until recently it was believed that they hibernated in the roots of trees. Now we know that they actually move away from trees into hollows under moss or ivy which provides insulation when the temperature falls.'

Other protected creatures, including badgers, great crested newts, slow-worms and common lizards are also being found new homes. Four artificial setts have been built for the badgers and they are expected to move in of their own accord. The newts have proved elusive. Of about ten breeding sites identified during an environmental study of the route in 1993, more than half have vanished. Low rainfall is blamed.

The dormouse round-up has produced one record breaker. The average adult dormouse weighs 15g to 40g and is 14cm to 18cm long, but Mr Woods now has a 47g heavyweight. Thanks to miniature transmitters and observation of Mr Woods's breeding herd, it is now known that a dormouse preparing for winter can double its weight in days. The feeding frenzy is triggered as the days grow shorter and the nights colder.

Mr Woods said: "The curtain comes down with the first hard frost. Then their food disappears, all the insects die and the blackberries and other autumn fruits are just a memory. Any animal that hasn't put on enough weight by then to see it through [illegible] months will [illegible]ve."

The solitary creatures live no more than a handful to the acre and time to catch them before construction work begins next year is running out. The special licence issued by the Department of the Environment expires at the end of the month. Dozens of nesting boxes have been placed in trees and every couple of weeks each one is checked for new residents by Pat Thompson, who works for an environmental consultancy based at Maidstone.

The biggest relocation programme in dormouse history has been kept under wraps because of the threat of animal rights protests or people looking for an unusual pet.

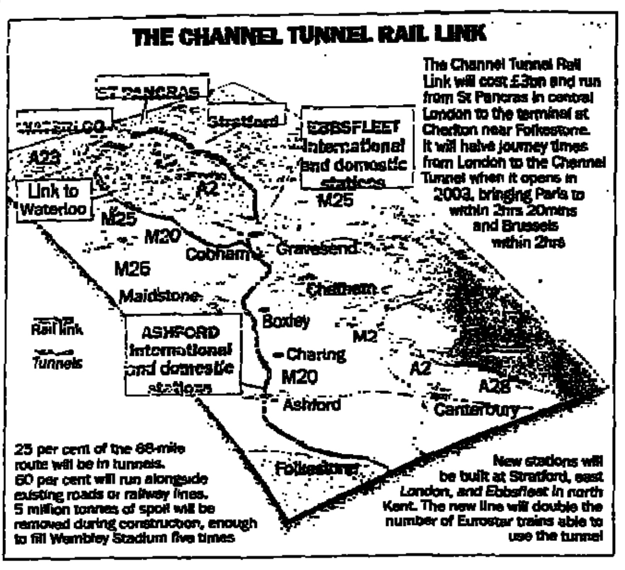
Beatrix Potter's dormice sold peppermints and candles but preferred to stay in bed all day. When customers complained, John Dormouse would just reply: "Very snug." He would feel at ease in Mr Woods's dormouse hotel, where the guests were this week getting ready for bed.

TIM CUFF

This heavyweight dormouse preparing for winter in Somerset weighed 47g, which is thought to be a record

A dormouse nesting box at a secret location is checked

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK



The Channel Tunnel Rail Link will cost £3bn and run from St Pancras in central London to the terminal at Cheriton near Folkestone. It will halve journey times from London to the Channel Tunnel when it opens in 2003, bringing Paris to within 2hrs 20mins and Brussels within 2hrs

25 per cent of the 68-mile route will be in tunnels. 60 per cent will run alongside existing roads or railway lines. 5 million tonnes of spoil will be removed during construction, enough to fill Wembley Stadium five times

New stations will be built at Stratford, east London, and Ebbsfleet in north Kent. The new line will double the number of Eurostar trains able to use the tunnel

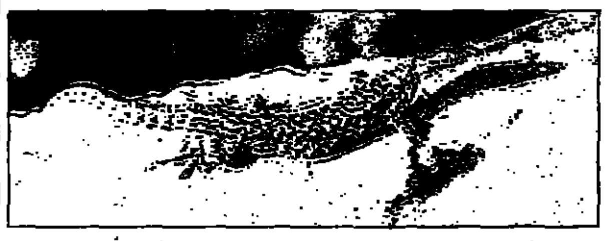
PROTECTED SPECIES BEING MOVED

Dormouse *(Muscardinus avellanarius)*. Britain's only golden coloured rodent. Nocturnal and arboreal, lives around five years. Two litters a year of two to nine naked, blind babies. Forms a tightly woven spherical nest 1-2m above the ground. Hibernates underground from late October to April

Badger *(Meles meles)*. Familiar black and white striped brock once persecuted by farmers and baited for sport. The principal ingredient in badger-hair shaving brushes. Omnivorous and nocturnal, its favourite food is earthworms. Badger setts can have up to 40 entrances and be inhabited for generations. Boar can weigh up to 50lb

Slow worm *(Anguis fragilis)*. Neither a worm nor a snake but a lizard with no legs. Average 12 inches long and found in leaf litter on woodland fringes, quarries, churchyards and railway embankments. Long tail breaks off if caught hold of by small boys or other predators. Harmless but has suffered for resemblance to snakes

Great crested newt *(Triturus cristatus)*. Amphibian often speckled with brightly coloured spots. Once feared by country folk who believed it to be related to a dragon and capable of breathing fire. Grows up to six inches long and male sports serrated crest during courtship. In decline owing to drainage of ponds and marshes



Viviparous lizard *(Lacerta vivipara)*. Common lizard enjoys basking on dry sunny banks and eating insects. Very hard to catch owing to dramatic turn of speed and ability to shed tail, which carries on wriggling long after its owner has vanished. Up to six inches long

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cab driver accused of raping girl, 13

A taxi driver accused of the triple rape of a 13-year-old girl in his black cab was remanded in custody for a week by Bow Street magistrates in London yesterday. Peter Goddard, 40, of Benfleet, Essex, also faces three charges of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor and one of indecent assault between March 23 and 24. The girl had been visiting London from her home in Southampton to meet Brian Harvey, the former member of the pop group East 17.

Boys rewarded

Three boys aged seven to nine were given good citizen's awards and £50 each for handing in £300 dropped by two armed robbers whom they followed from a Middlesbrough post office after a hold-up.

Youngest pervert

A boy aged 14 became the youngest on the paedophile register after admitting assaults on two eight-year-old boys. Yeovil magistrates made a supervision order and bound over his parents to ensure his good behaviour.

US sale allowed

The Government has given the go-ahead for Henry Dent-Brocklehurst, of Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire, to sell *Temps Calme* by Poussin to the Getty Museum in California for £15 million. No British buyer had been found.

Murder charge

Graham Sate, 24, has been remanded in custody by magistrates at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, charged with murdering five-year-old Lauren Creed. Her mother, Sharon, was remanded on bail on a cruelty charge.

Design flaw

Clements Ribeiro was mistakenly hailed as New Generation Designer at the British Fashion Awards because the wrong name was put in the envelope for the ceremony at the Albert Hall. Antonio Berardi was the winner.

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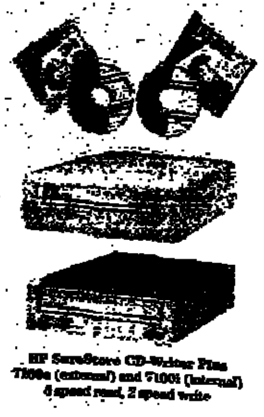

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Enter, aged 50, the motherly, mellow Hillary

Mrs Clinton has thrown off her dauntingly chilly, image, reports

Tom Rhodes

SCOTT APPLEWHITE / AP

Back in the spotlight: Hillary Clinton, accompanying her husband at this week's conference on child care at the White House where the President pledged to make such services more affordable. She has worked hard behind the scenes to develop the President's new policy

BY the time the helicopter carrying Hillary Clinton lifts off the South Lawn at the White House next week for her low-key visit to Ireland and London, her makeover as America's caring First Lady will be all but complete.

Tomorrow she celebrates her 50th birthday with an unofficial White House party before a two-day, very public trip to Chicago complete with gala and fireworks.

She will even appear as a guest on the *Oprah Winfrey Show* before returning to Washington for the transatlantic, semi-ambassadorial sortie to Dublin, Belfast and London. Only months ago this was a woman who took private walks around the American capital, consulted the depths of her Christian faith, and channelled via guru to Eleanor Roosevelt and Mahatma Gandhi.

The healthcare programme she had championed and whose failure was partly to blame for the overwhelming defeat of Democrats in the mid-term elections of 1994 was still viewed as an irredeemable Achilles' heel preventing her return to policymaking.

Her personal standing, at once provoking fierce loyalty among women and intense hatred among many men, had forced Mrs Clinton to retreat into seclusion throughout the period of her husband's re-election last year. There was regular talk that she would be indicted.

But now Sister Frigidaire, as she was known throughout the Administration's first term, has returned as Mellow Mother, a leading figure who no longer trades insults with members of Congress but prefers to make her point by ruffling the hair of a toddler in a day-care centre.

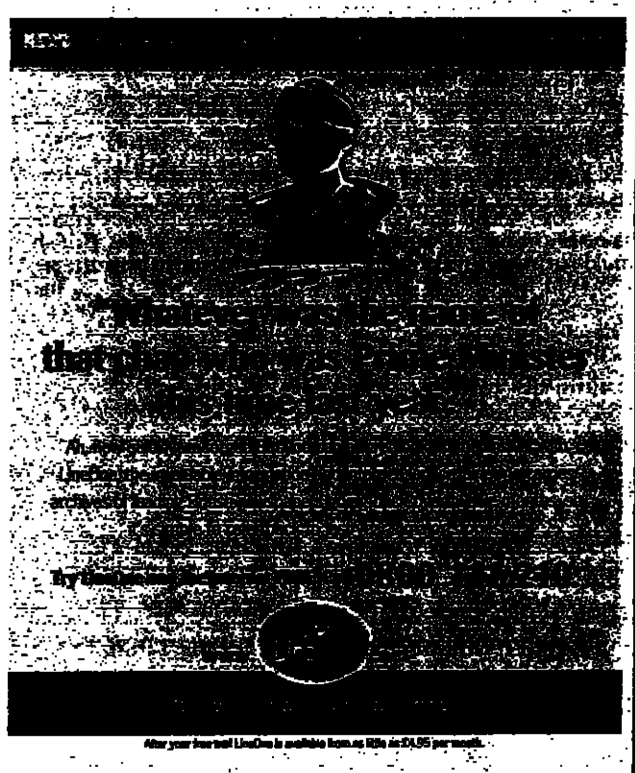
This week she embraced child care, drawing attention to the "silent crisis" which affects every American parent. It was she who had worked closely behind the scenes to develop her husband's new policy, one which, as with so much of his Administration, has concentrated on minor initiatives with little investment. But it has, nevertheless, given Mrs Clinton the opportunity to flex her considerable brain once again.

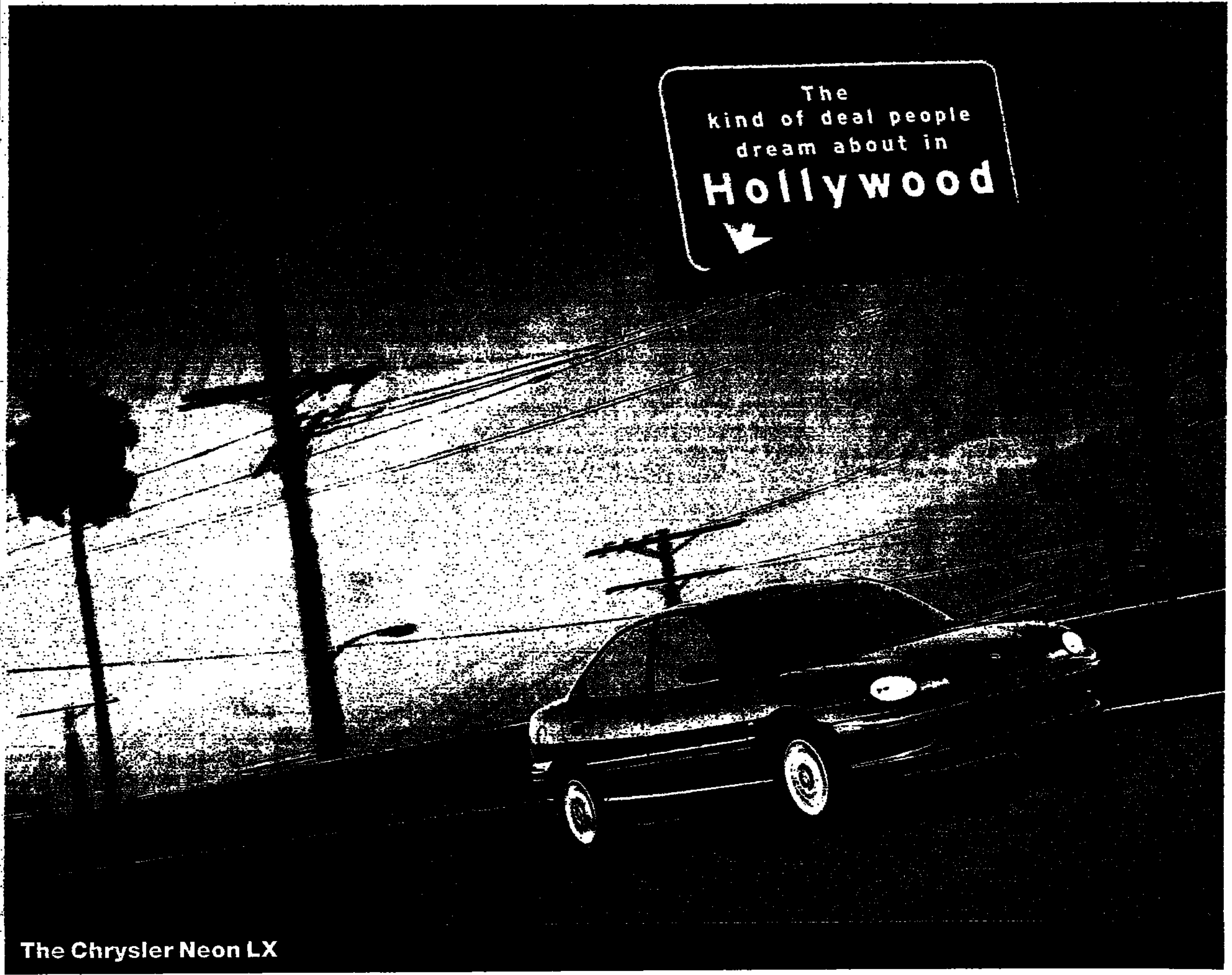
Even her wardrobe has been transformed from the arch, power-dressing reds and greens of the past to the pastel shades of Oscar de la Renta. The many hairstyles, which two years ago she claimed resulted from her boredom, have now settled into a neat and carefully blow-dried cut.

Two years and many bombs after her husband's triumphant visit to Ireland, Mrs Clinton will test the waters of peace when she delivers the first Joyce McCartan Memorial lecture in Belfast, a series devoted to both unity and leadership among Protestant and Catholic women. She will also travel to Chequers for an evening with the Blairs.

Like her husband, Mrs Clinton will be far from retiring age when the couple finally leave the White House and, while she has told friends that she and Bill Clinton might become itinerant college professors based in Arkansas (she hates the cold of Chicago), few believe such a task would be completely satisfying. But for the moment, Hillary Clinton is happy to be back in a less glaring limelight.

Leading article, page 23





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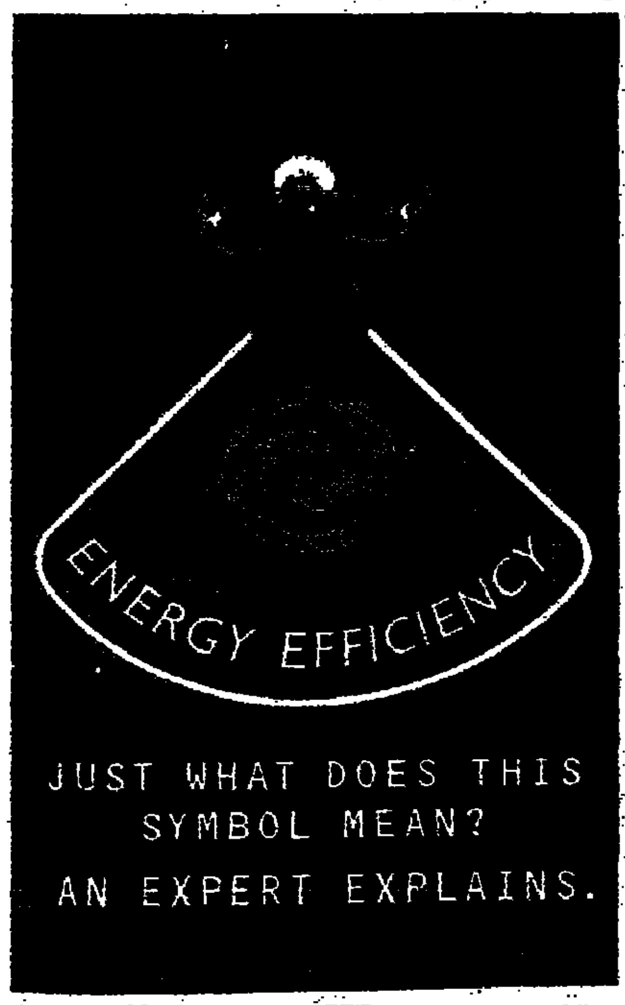
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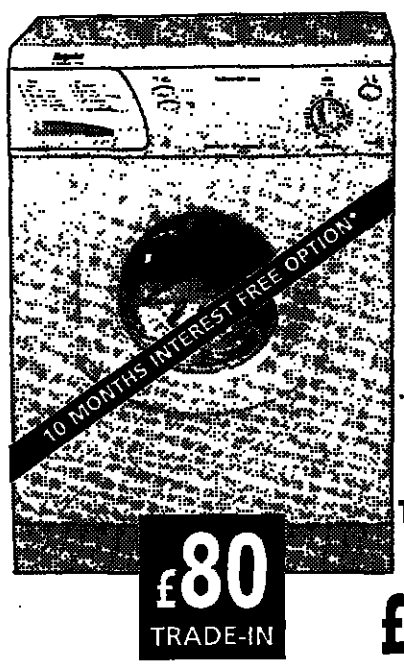

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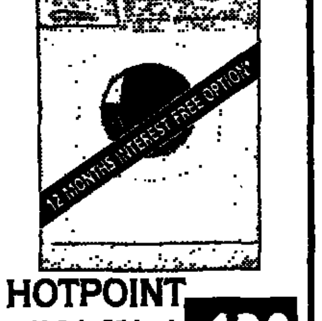

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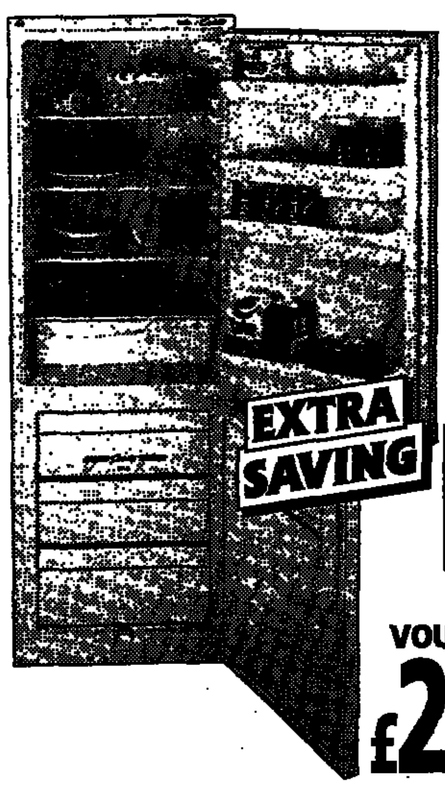

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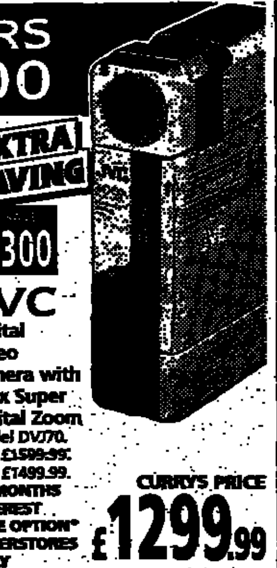

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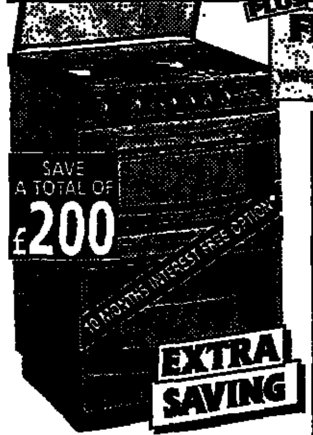

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Why a Scots lady can no longer bank on privacy

Britain's only branch for women is to close, reports **Shirley English**

THERE were always certain subjects that a lady did not like to discuss in mixed company. Her financial situation, for example. But times change, and it seems that men are everywhere these days. Even Britain's only all-women bank is having to close at the end of next week.

The Ladies Branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland was established in 1964 to cater for Edinburgh wives who preferred not to conduct their finances with members of the opposite sex. It still has 1,500 customers. They have been invited to mourn its passing during its final five days, with "wine and nibbles" in the branch's coffee lounge overlooking Princes Street.

According to the bank's chiefs, the branch is no longer viable and has outlived its use. The number of callers has fallen to an average of 50 a day: women are no longer intimidated by bank managers or dependent on husbands.

When the Ladies Branch opened it was regarded as revolutionary. David Alexander, general manager, picked up the idea from New Zealand. The all-female staff — headed by Scotland's first woman bank manager, Margaret Reid — added to the appeal for well-to-do Edinburgh wives and widows unused to the vulgarity of dealing with money.

Banished were banking's age-old decorative formula of one part mahogany, three parts marble and six parts cream paintwork. In its place were plush green carpets, gold hand-printed floral wallpaper and velvet curtains, set off with flowers and soft music.

Best of all, the branch at 144 Princes Street was conveniently sited next door to Binns (now House of Fraser). Ladies could not only replenish their purse with up to £10 on demand, but could also refresh their make-up in the blue powder room.

If they chose, they could then join in the gentle murmur of gossip over a free cup of coffee or tea served in china cups on a silver tray by a waitress. Women's magazines and a free telephone with leather-bound directory were all an essential part of the service.

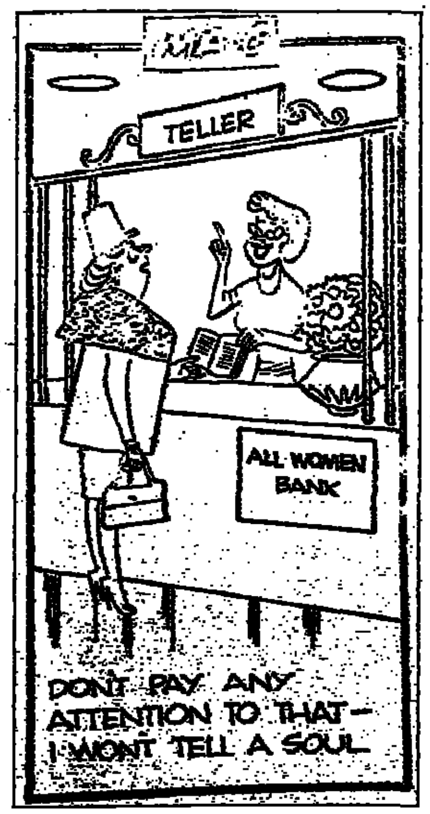
The branch has since moved from the ground floor to the second, and the china has long since gone, replaced by plastic cups and a coffee machine, despite genteel protests. Seventy per cent of clients are retired. The decor is now standard corporate-style and the branch even has a small number of male customers who infiltrated via joint accounts. But the magazines and the personal welcome are still there.

Although a lot quieter than its heyday in the 1970s when it had 3,000 accounts, the leisurely atmosphere has hardly changed. Yesterday ladies arriving to transact business paused to chat with staff. For the few younger women dashing in during their lunch-break, the lack of queues was a welcome alternative to the busy flow of custom in the main bank two floors below, to which the ladies accounts will be tranferred.

Jessie Alexander, widow of the general manager who pioneered the branch, was the first to open an account there. Yesterday, discreetly giving her age as "over 21", she said: "It's sad it's closing and I will miss it, but times move on. When it opened, women perhaps hesitated to go into a bank and rather liked the idea of a lady manager they could talk to, but now they go into banks all the time, don't they?"

Although some ladies guiltily admitted to doing most of their banking by phone or machine these days, others were less than happy with the change. Sheila Wylie, 69, a former minister's wife, said: "I would rather remain upstairs than downstairs. It is going to be so busy with all those awful queues." Elizabeth Fraser, the third customer to join in 1964, said: "It is a great shame. I know all the girls [tellers] and I meet friends here. All the other branches are the same as each other. I don't think its true that women no longer want this sort of service." Betty Johnson, 53, the longest serving staff member, has been overseeing the final days and will take on the role of "meet-er-greeter" downstairs to welcome the ladies to their new branch. She said: "Everyone is very sad. They value the personal touch. Sometimes we are the only person they speak to in a day."

But Vicki Wilkinson, the Royal Bank archivist, said: "The Ladies Branch was ahead of its time. It led the way with new standards of service. Now everyone else has caught up and it is no longer different."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Free tea or coffee in china cups, and free phone calls made amid hand-printed wallpaper and velvet drapes were all part of the service. Right, how the bank was advertised

Sheila Wylie seeks advice on the changes. She said: "It is going to be so busy with all those awful queues"

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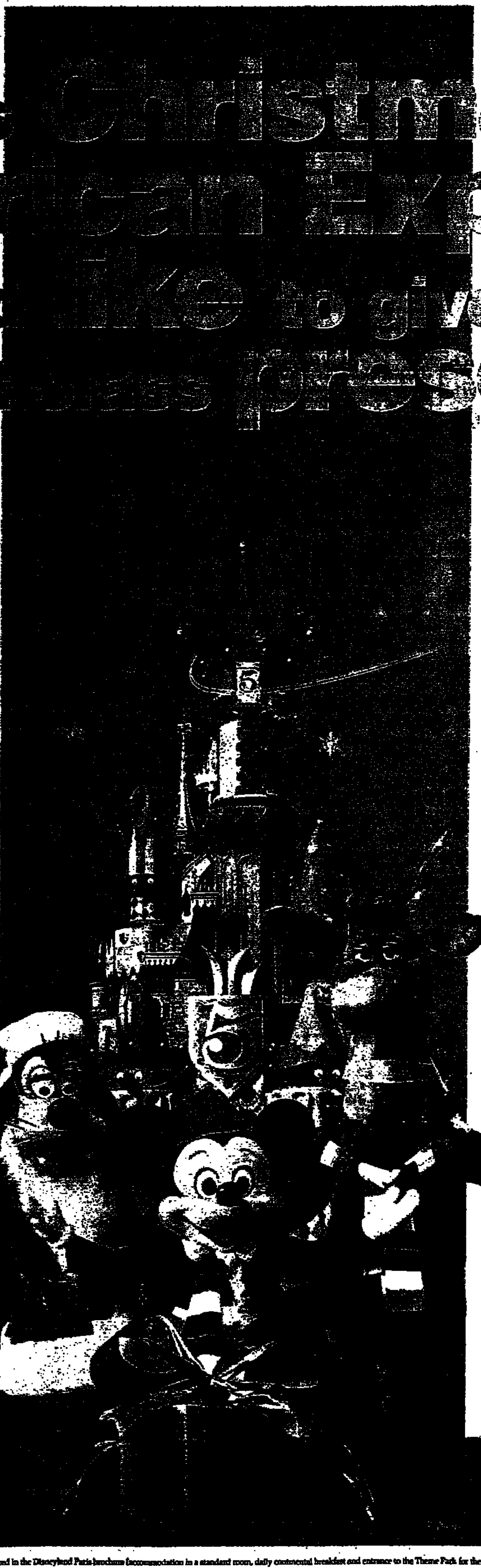

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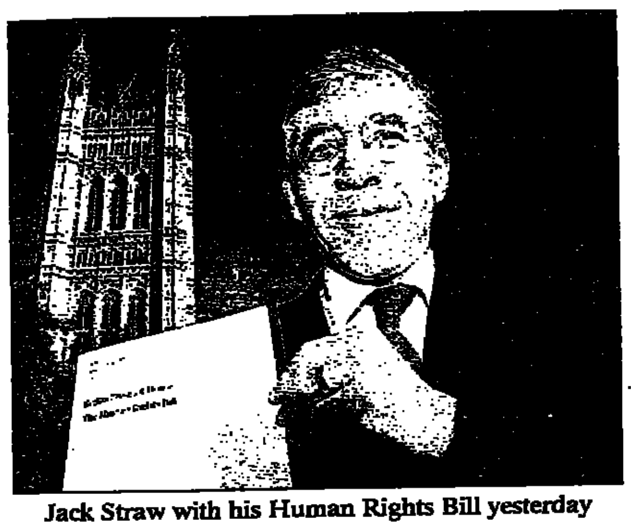
Human rights to be part of UK law

Citizens will have redress in British courts, **Richard Ford** reports



Jack Straw with his Human Rights Bill yesterday

HUMAN RIGHTS are to be enshrined in British law under government proposals published yesterday that will allow people to seek redress in UK courts rather than in Europe. Public authorities will have to operate in a way that does not breach the European Convention on Human Rights.

The move is expected to lead to the introduction of a judge-made privacy law, a possibility acknowledged by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, who emphasised that it would be balanced by the article in the convention guaranteeing freedom of expression.

People who believe their rights have been violated will be able to bring legal proceedings against public authorities, such as Government and the police. But the Human Rights Bill does not give the courts power to "strike down" existing laws where they conflict with the convention.

Instead, where there is a conflict, Parliament will be able to amend legislation by positive resolutions in both the Commons and Lords. If the Government refuses to change legislation, an individual will still be able to take the case to the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg.

Mr Straw told a press conference that it was "an historic day" for the rights of the British people. "It is the first time since 1689 that there will have been a British Bill of Rights..

"The UK had a major role in drafting the convention and was the first to ratify it in 1951. But we have been almost alone in Europe in not incorporating it into our own law."

Mr Straw said that the Bill would allow citizens to enforce their rights against public authorities directly in the UK courts and obtain a remedy more quickly than hitherto. Under current arrangements, it takes about five years and costs £30,000 for a case to be heard at Strasbourg.

The 18 articles of the convention include a prohibition on torture; a ban on slavery and forced labour; the right to a fair trial; a right to respect for private and family life; freedom of thought, conscience and religion; freedom of expression; freedom of assembly; the right to marry; and a ban on discrimination.

Under the Bill, coincidentally published on the day that the UK lost its fiftieth case at Strasbourg, the UK courts will have to interpret the law in line with the convention as far as possible. Damages awarded to individuals are likely to be in the region of between £5,000 and £15,000.

Ministers introducing legislation will have to make a declaration that the measures comply with the convention's central provisions.

But legal aid will not be available for those bringing cases, and the Government has ruled out for the time being the creation of a Human Rights Commission that would assist individuals to bring court challenges.

The proposals were welcomed by civil liberties groups which have long campaigned for the convention to be incorporated into British law. Ben Emmerson, a barrister and editor of the *European Human Rights Law Review*, said: "For the first time, individuals will have a code of rights that is legally enforceable against the State, covering issues from ill-treatment in custody to privacy and freedom of expression."

Lord Lester of Herne Hill, a Liberal Democrat peer and eminent QC, was delighted that, for the first time in 300 years, a government was introducing a measure "where our civil and political rights are going to be guaranteed by our own system".

Sir Brian Mawhinney, Shadow Home Secretary, attacked the proposals, saying that judges would be able to tell Parliament what laws to pass.

The 1689 Bill of Rights, dealing with the relationship between Crown and Parliament, followed the invitation to William of Orange and his wife Mary to accept the Throne in place of the Roman Catholic James II. It enacted the earlier Declaration of Rights which set out the liberties established by the Glorious Revolution of 1688, declaring illegal the arbitrary use of royal power, and limited the succession to exclude Roman Catholics.

Leading article, page 23

An ingenious solution to improving justice

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The Government's new proposals on human rights are potentially the most important constitutional initiative since the election. While the Government's package achieves a skilful balance between the judges and Parliament, questions remain about ministerial discretion.

Incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law is long overdue. Britain helped to devise the original convention, ratified it in 1951 and has allowed individuals the right of access to the Strasbourg court for more than 30 years. Although British judges have increasingly taken account of the convention, cases about alleged breaches cannot be brought in British courts.

The new proposals will, as Jack Straw argued yesterday, make existing rights more accessible and allow a specifically British influence on the development of [illegible]

[illegible]

tainly" is not the same as requiring ministers to secure parliamentary approval [illegible]

The Government's ingenious approach is to propose a fast-track procedure by order (subject to approval by votes in both Houses of Parliament) for changing legislation in response either to a declaration of incompatibility or to an adverse ruling by the Strasbourg court. This should ensure a much faster remedy than now, where a fully fledged Bill is required that can take many months.

The White Paper was rightly welcomed yesterday. However, the Government is still cautious about moving from the absolute sovereignty of Parliament towards a written constitution with entrenched protection of rights and formal [illegible] checks and balances judged [illegible]

PETER RIDDELL

Patient held for three years wins recompense

A FORMER psychiatric patient is to receive compensation after the Government was found guilty yesterday of breaching his human rights by detaining him for three years even after he was free from mental illness.

The European Court of Human Rights ruled that it had been wrong to hold Stanley Johnson, 50, in Rampton top security hospital after he was free from the symptoms of mental illness.

Mr Johnson, from Leicester, was sent to the Nottinghamshire hospital in 1984 after being convicted of assaulting a woman in the street. It was his fifth conviction for assault and he was found to be suffering from schizophrenia superimposed on a psychopathic personality.

In 1989 the Mental Health Review Tribunal was told that he was free of the symptoms of mental illness and recommended his release to a hostel. His release was delayed until a place could be found. But a year later he was still in hospital because hostels objected to his history of alcohol abuse and attacks on women.

In September 1990 he began a trial leave at a less-secure psychiatric hospital, but within a few weeks was returned to Rampton after he assaulted another patient during a visit to a public house.

The Mental Health Review Tribunal was told in April 1991 that though Mr Johnson was not mentally ill he was likely to "explode" if he began using alcohol or drugs, and that he had resisted treatment for his difficulties with intoxicants. His release was again delayed but in 1993 he was discharged and has not since been convicted of any crimes or relapsed into mental illness.

Andrew Bergman, Mr Johnson's solicitor, said that the Government would have to pay compensation, but the amount had still to be settled.

"The significance is not only for Mr Johnson but also for other people who are in this position where tribunals have said they should move on," he said.

KEY BRITISH DEFEATS IN EUROPE

The European Convention on Human Rights, adopted in the aftermath of the Second World War, came into force in 1953. The UK ratified it in 1951 but it was not until 1966 that British citizens were given the right to take cases to the European Commission of Human Rights. Since then Britain has suffered a series of defeats in the European Court with far-reaching effects on press freedom and corporal punishment.

- **In 1979 the Court ruled that the British Government had been wrong to block publication in *The Sunday Times* of reports about children whose mothers had taken thalidomide during pregnancy.**
- **Birching in the Isle of Man was ended in 1978 after a Court ruling, and in 1982 the Court ruled against corporal punishment in state schools.**
- **May 1985: three women from Malawi, the Philippines and Sri Lanka successfully challenged immigration laws that denied their husbands automatic entry into Britain.**
- **April 1988: the killer Jimmy Boyle won a claim that letters were unlawfully interfered with in jail.**
- **October 1990: three sex offenders won a ruling forcing a review of the way life-sentence prisoners are released on licence and then recalled.**
- **1995: the Court ruled that the shooting dead of three IRA bombers by the SAS in Gibraltar was a violation of their human rights under the Convention.**
- **February 1996: the Court rules that the Home Secretary should no longer have the power to detain child killers indefinitely.**

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'Spouse Girls' pop out with the wives

By Shirley English

WHILE Commonwealth leaders were engaged in bilateral meetings yesterday morning, their wives went shopping.

Delegations departed from hotels, accompanied by their female police escorts, known as the "Spouse Girls", to browse around shops in Princes Street or take in a few of the sights, the favourite being Edinburgh Castle.

With free time at a premium in a schedule bristling with official dinners and social engagements, there was a short panic when Grace Mugabe, the wife of the Zimbabwean President, was grounded at the Sheraton Hotel by her "Spouse Girl". Mrs Mugabe was told she could not take her six-month-old son in the car without a baby seat. One was duly summoned.

One spouse, whom police refused to name, chose not to brave the chill Scottish weather and got a department store to come to her. She bought a coat.

Three of the wives, however, had official engagements. Cherie Blair, the Prime Minister's wife, and Bunmi Anyaoku, the wife of the Commonwealth Secretary-General, opened the Commonwealth Family Festival at Princes Street gardens.

A couple of blocks away, Graça Machel was making her debut in Scotland as the official companion to President Mandela at an art competition prize-giving for Commonwealth children.

Mrs Machel, widow of a Mozambican President, had insisted she would not have come if it were not a working visit. Over the next few days, she will attend meetings on landmines and children's rights. Shopping and sight-seeing were not on her agenda, she said.

Blair shows off 'new Britain' to foreign leaders

Labour unveils global blueprint, report **Michael Binyon** and **Jill Sherman**

TO the strains of bongo music and the flickering of a giant video screen Tony Blair yesterday welcomed more than 50 Commonwealth leaders to what he called a new young Britain that was modern, enterprising, outward and compassionate.

He told presidents and prime ministers at the Commonwealth opening ceremony that in Britain the elite was finished. There was a new identity. "The new Britain is a meritocracy where we break down the barriers of class, religion, race and culture." He said Britain's aim now was to combine a creative modern economy, able to compete in the global market, with a decent, one-nation society. Britain was to be a country "for all the people, not a privileged few".

His remarks followed an extraordinary video and music and dance display, in which even the national anthem had a jazzy twang. The Queen and national leaders looked on bemused as a slick promotional video extolled Britain's hi-tech achievements and raced through its economic recovery.

Even the Queen's position as head of the Commonwealth was introduced with shots of her through her reign travelling to far-off lands and watching exotic ceremonies. "My goodness, I have been busy," the Queen remarked as she rose to make her first-ever speech to the Commonwealth. Laughter and loud applause greeted the royal joke.

Paying effusive tribute to the Commonwealth's purpose and value, the Queen said that its real soul was provided by its people. It was they who ran non-governmental organisations and gave a helping hand to the sick or unemployed. "The more the activities of the Commonwealth bring direct benefits to its peoples, the stronger the organisation will be." She firmly believed in its purpose: the promotion of democracy, the pursuit of prosperity through trade and development and the building of consensus.

All three will be the main points of the weekend agenda, and some tough talk began last night on human rights, trade and the challenge of globalisation. Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, appeared to warn this globalised new Commonwealth that all this could marginalise small developing members. In his opening speech, he told Mr Blair and others that an international underclass had emerged, and it had been created by globalisation.

As the leaders met, Ken Wiwa, the son of the hanged Nigerian Ogoni activist, Ken Saro-Wiwa, joined other demonstrators in denouncing as a sell-out the Commonwealth's compromise to delay sanctions on Nigeria for another year.

Mr Wiwa, a freelance journalist in London, said that he felt betrayed by the Commonwealth and knew that he could not rely on it.

African leaders at the summit defended the package proposed by a ministerial action group, insisting that tough new sanctions or the immediate expulsion of Nigeria could provoke a new coup by junior officers, destabilising the country and provoking civil war.

A senior African politician from the group said: "This would make the Sierra Leone coup look like a picnic."

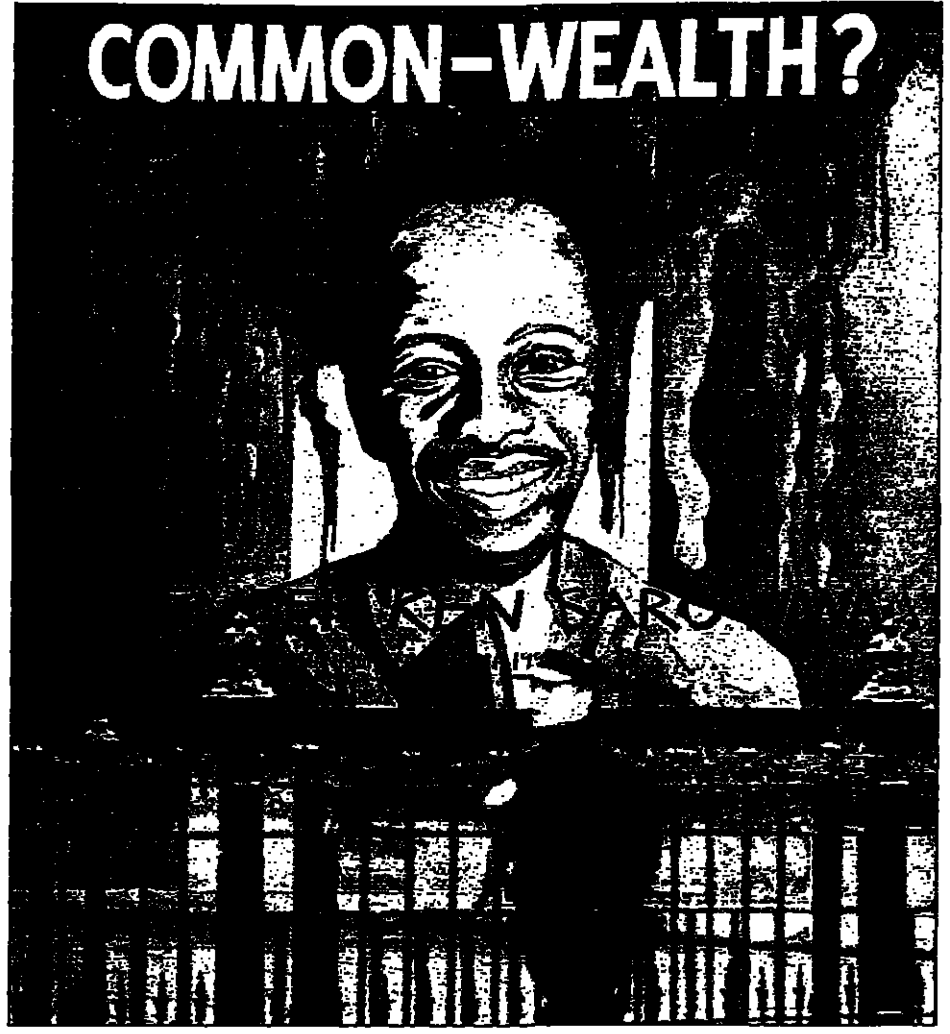
Nigeria scored a point with the announcement of a peace plan for Sierra Leone that it has brokered in neighbouring Guinea. This proposes an immediate ceasefire, the demobilisation of armed groups, control of the country by a Nigerian-led West African peacekeeping force and the return in six months of Ahmad Kabbah, the ousted President. Britain and the rest of the Commonwealth were seeking more details of the accord.

☐ **Guyana aid:** Britain last night announced a £3 million grant to help to manage a rainforest in Guyana. It will pay for the policing and conservation of more than 890,000 acres of jungle.

Leading article, page 23

President Mandela and President Bandaranaike Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka at the talks yesterday

JEFF MITCHELL / REUTERS



An Amnesty International portrait of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the dissident executed by Nigeria in 1995, dominates an Edinburgh street as Commonwealth leaders meet

Mandela sidesteps Libya row

By Our Foreign Staff

PRESIDENT MANDELA of South Africa said yesterday that he would not use his visit to the Commonwealth summit to mediate in the four-year dispute between Libya and the governments of Britain and America.

He did say he would meet relations of those Britons killed in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing, an attack that is blamed on two Libyan agents.

The President arrived in Edinburgh for the meeting after talks with Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, on the protracted dispute with the West, which is demanding the extradition of the two suspects.

The South African leader was late for the summit opening, arriving after the Queen. "Hello, Tony, how are you?" he boomed at the approaching Prime Minister. Together, he and Mr Blair moved inside and, as they neared the Queen, Mr Mandela called out: "I'm terribly sorry, Your Majesty, that I'm late." He was rewarded with a wide smile and a chat.

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هكذا من الإمل

Fresh fields are ripe for Amis to harvest

TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S

NEW YORK

IT was at dinner the other night that I realised that even some New Yorkers talk about Martin Amis all the time.

I was dining at Theodore, a natty new restaurant on the fringes of the Chelsea district, and, hard as I tried, I could not get Mr Amis off the conversational menu.

Do not misunderstand. Nobody at the table actually liked his oeuvre, with one lady — a stylish teacher of English at the Brearley School, New York's equivalent of Roedean — even using the word "rubbish" to describe the last Amis book she had read.

"Do you teach him to your girls?" I asked, mischievously. "Certainly not," she replied, stiffening momentarily. "I teach literature. Mr Amis may have *The Information* but he does not have the knowledge."

All present, however, were intrigued by one thing. Mr Amis had declared recently that he might soon abandon London and come to live in New York. All at the table wondered why. Was their city a better place for a novelist than London? After all, as the English teacher pointed out, history shows that London is more fecund by far when it comes to producing literature.

We talked about this. Today's London, it was agreed, had Julian Barnes, Peter Ackroyd, Amis Himself and Salman Rushdie (who, although now of no fixed address, was deemed to be a "London writer"). Who is the New York novelist today? Only Norman Mailer, and he is not now young.

"But New York has much better dentists than London," said my friend, Ellen Wagner, who works with the *Muppet Show*. Clearly, the Great Teeth Debate is not now confined to "skanky" London — as Mr Amis recently described it — but has reached the Big Apple too.

The dinner-table jury was, in the end, split on "New York versus London". One person said: "Listen, Amis's 'thing' is the triumph of style over content, so this city would be perfect for him. Look around you. New York is *like* Amis . . . self-referential, overblown, aggravating, clever."

"You mean, of course, that Amis is like New York," I pointed out gently, trying to put matters in the right perspective. "True, true," she agreed, somewhat chastened. But thankfully, she carried on: "Whatever one thinks of his work, and it is uneven, Amis is a writer of great energy. It's a very New York kind of energy."

Who knows, he may even write a *New York Fields* here one day. Personally, I hope he will.

Liz Taylor to rescue

FRANK PERINO, a blind man from Long Island, is making substantial progress in his crusade to get Britain to change its rules about putting visting guide-dogs in quarantine. He rang me last month, saying that he had had to cancel "a holiday of a lifetime" to London because he would not be able to enter the country with Timber, his "eyes". I wrote about his plight in this column, and now Elizabeth Taylor, no less, has given him her support, writing that the rules are an affront to a civilised society.

RICHARD YOUNG

Martin Amis and partner Isabel Fonseca are considering a move from London to New York

Checking up on Chekhov

Chekhov: masterpieces in obscure journals

New Yorkers have had occasion for a philosophical meditation on the meaning of the word "lost". *Harper's* magazine features on its cover the claim that it is publishing "Nine Lost Stories" by Anton Chekhov, the Russian writer. Being something of a Chekhovista, I grabbed the magazine and read the superb stories.

But were they "lost"? The translator, Peter Constantine, had encountered them in the New York Public Library, tucked away in obscure Russian journals from the last century. He promptly translated them, thereby "discovering" them. Am I the only one to detect a touch of "Christopher Columbus and America" in this story?

As a rule, one does not entertain at home in New York. This is because dining rooms are small, kitchens smaller and good restaurants abundant. But there is another reason: one can never be sure about just who is coming to dinner.

Last week I arranged a supper, and invited Barclay Palmer, who runs CNN's New York bureau. He brought his fiancée: Dana Cowin, the elegant editor-in-chief of *Food & Wine* magazine, the foodies' bible. If only I'd known, dinner might have been more edible.

A good name for dropping

JUST as John Ruskin avoided walking past Keble College at Oxford, regarding it as too ugly, I try not to stroll past the UN headquarters here. The other day, I had no choice. But my gloom was lifted when I saw a street-sign there, now out-of-date. It said: "Nelson and Winnie Mandela Corner". Has anyone told Graça Machel?

Hopes soar for first supersonic pumpkin flight

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

NOW that Britain's *Thrust SSC* supersonic car has entered the record books as the fastest vehicle on land, there appears to be open season on breaking the sound barrier: a group of Americans is trying to send a pumpkin spinning through the air at Mach 1.

For more than a decade, the arcane art of pumpkin throwing — or punkin' chunkin' — has attracted an eclectic and eccentric group to the World Championships in Lewes, Delaware. This year, however, a group of five self-styled "high-tech rednecks" from Morton, Illinois, the undisputed world champions, is trying to punch the vegetable faster than the speed of sound.

For weeks, they have been practising for the Hallowe'en event in the rolling cornfields around Morton, a town which supplies 80 per cent of America's canned pumpkin and calls itself the pumpkin capital of the world.

At the heart of the record-breaking attempt is an 18-ton, 100ft cannon made of ten-inch-diameter plastic pipe. The machine, powered by compressed air and mounted on an old cement mixer, will be tethered to a school bus for the trip to Delaware in a fortnight. The $3,000 (£1,860) Aludium Q36 Pumpkin Modulator, named after a cartoon gun that was used to destroy Earth, has set a world record for distance, flinging a pumpkin 2,710ft at more than 600mph.

The only question is whether the gourd can survive its supersonic trip or will merely disintegrate in flight. Matt Parker, 28, a Morton businessman who is leading the team, is certain their efforts will be successful. "I know we can do it and I cannot wait to hear the crack when the pumpkin reaches the speed of sound," he said. "It will not be like a jet because of its mass, but it is certainly going to make a noise for all of us."

For the past 11 years, a varied assortment of contraptions has been dragged to Lewes to vie for bragging rights in a collection of pumpkin-tossing categories, including human-powered, centrifugal, catapult and air cannon.

Derived from an anvil-throwing game once played on the Delaware coast, the rules of the modern contest are clear. Pumpkins must weigh between eight and ten pounds, should leave the machine intact and may not be propelled by explosives.

PRIZE DRAW THE TIMES

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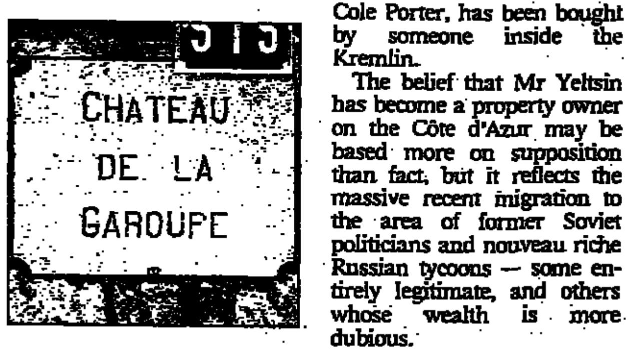
Yeltsin tipped for Riviera's Russian jet set

The Kremlin may now be plotting a new invasion of France, reports **Ben Macintyre**

A HUNDRED and forty years after Empress Alexandra turned Côte d'Azur into the holiday destination of choice for Russia's ruling class, a fresh Russian colonisation of the Riviera is under way by tourists, newly wealthy businessmen from the former Soviet Union, mafia barons and even, if local rumour is to be believed, President Yeltsin himself.

Last August the sale of the Château de la Garoupe at Cap d'Antibes unleashed a flood of speculation that the Russian leader had followed in Tsarist footsteps by purchasing one of most beautiful properties on the French Mediterranean.

Officially, the château was bought for Fr55 million (£5.7 million) by an international property consortium, but both the local newspaper, *Nice-Matin*, and *Le Point*, the French financial weekly, reported that Mr Yeltsin, his daughter Tatyana Dyachenko, or "Russian businessmen close to the President" were behind the purchase.



The rumour gained further weight last week when a member of the aristocratic English family that had owned the château since 1906 wrote, in the magazine *Country Life*, of her fears that the Russian President might neglect the estate and "leave the ancient olive trees unpruned". Russian officials have denied the reports and, indeed, if it could be proved that Mr Yeltsin had bought himself such an expensive French property the political fallout in Russia would be disastrous.

Yet the story persists, and the estate agents and residents of Cap d'Antibes firmly believe that the magnificent château and its 25-acre garden, once rented by the likes of Aristotle Onassis and Cole Porter, has been bought by someone inside the Kremlin.

The belief that Mr Yeltsin has become a property owner on the Côte d'Azur may be based more on supposition than fact, but it reflects the massive recent migration to the area of former Soviet politicians and nouveau riche Russian tycoons — some entirely legitimate, and others whose wealth is more dubious.

The first influx of Russians to the French Riviera in the 1850s was followed by a second wave of White Russians at the start of this century. Since the collapse of communism, a home, or at least a holiday, on the Côte d'Azur has again become a supreme mark of status in Russia.

A former official in the Soviet Foreign Ministry is said to have bought two villas near Nice for Fr80 million, while a former Russian lawyer turned petrol magnate and a former Soviet atomic engineer are reported to have acquired a residence at Cap d'Antibes, through a Luxembourg company.

Every year since 1992 it is estimated that Russians have bought up 50 properties in the area worth more than half a million pounds each.

"They are among my best customers," observes Pierre Duchesne, an estate agent at Cap d'Antibes who is, by coincidence, handling the sale of a large property that once belonged to the Romanovs.

At the Négresco, the most famous hotel on the seafront Promenade des Anglais in Nice, menus are printed in Cyrillic and staff have been trained to speak Russian. While the most lavish millionaire usually stays only a few days in the Négresco, Russian visitors stay an average of two weeks, according to the manager.

The wealth of the so-called "Nouveaux Emirs" of the Côte d'Azur is legendary. A Russian businessman called last summer to book a room in one of the region's most expensive hotels, but insisted he did not want any other Russians in the place. He was politely told that this would not be possible unless he booked the entire hotel. So he did. It was precisely such extravagance that made the first Russian visitors to the Côte d'Azur so welcome.

Empress Alexandra, widow of Nicholas I, found that there was nowhere in Nice large enough for her Russian Orthodox courtiers to worship and so built, at her expense, the vast St Nicholas Cathedral, the largest church of that faith outside Russia and one of the city's finest landmarks. But while the estate agents and waiters of Nice may be only too delighted by the generous new arrivals, French police are increasingly concerned that the Russian mafia is simultaneously spreading its tendrils through the region.

Gangsters from the former Soviet Union are well established across the border in Italy and the combination of drugs money, property speculation, casinos and widespread corruption along the southern coast of France have made it an obvious target for organised crime.

In addition to real estate, wealthy Russians have also begun to buy up other businesses in southern France such as restaurants, import-export operations and distilleries. Police suspect that such investments are often simply a cover for money-laundering.

WAYNE BODKIN

The sale of Château de la Garoupe has unleashed rumours that someone in the Kremlin, perhaps President Yeltsin, below right, is the buyer

Empress Alexandra, an early visitor to the Riviera, built a church in Nice for the benefit of her courtiers

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هكذا من الإصل

Where being foreign means death

Anthony Loyd in Algiers reports how Islamic militants target the bearers of an alien culture

JEAN-PAUL PELLISSIER / REUTERS

A security police officer patrols the Algiers Casbah during voting in the country's first local elections in seven years

THE children's choral greeting to foreign journalists at the edge of the Algerian capital's Casbah loses much of its initial suggestion of joyful exuberance when translated from Arabic. "You're going to die, you're going to die," they repeat as a smiling mantra.

> ‘Local people wearing glasses, which are deemed Western, have been killed’

The winter haunt of Europe's *bright young things* during the 1920s and 1930s until Cairo became more fashionable, Algeria has become a virtual no-go zone for foreigners. Targeted by fundamentalist terrorists, more than 200 have been killed in five years, and Foreign Office advice to those who must travel there is gloomy: "British nationals who cannot avoid travel to Algiers should have substantial armed protection at all times; however, this is no guarantee of their safety."

It has become a land where even locals have been murdered for as little as wearing glasses, a prop deemed to be a sign of Western corruption by the Armed Islamic Group, the GIA, and its supporters.

The British Embassy, which despite its garden is a mini-Alcatraz of razor-wired walls in the centre of the capital, has four heavily armed members of the special forces for each of the three resident diplomats. Working in offices sealed by vault-like doors in a compound within a compound, the three are protected by a concentration of more security resources, including electronic surveillance, bullet and blast proofing, than any other British embassy. "Our basic advice to foreigners is to leave," says François Gordon, the ambassador, "and preferably businessmen should not come at all." A year into his posting, the ambassador is the latest guardian of the British diplomatic representation in Algeria, a tradition that stretches back to the 16th century, when the first consul was established to buy the freedom of Christian slaves seized by Islamic pirates. One enterprising Barbary corsair had conducted his trade as far away as the west coast of Ireland, burning villages and seizing their inhabitants for the North African markets. Most European slaves were captured sailing on the Mediterranean.

Security for the foreign journalists arriving in the capital is so heavy as to make the threat almost abstract. Armed plainclothes police grab you at the airport before you have even walked the distance from the aircraft to the terminal building, escorting you to a hotel ringed by soldiers and gendarmes. The escort *remains with you whatever your destination.* Even a journey *out of the building to buy some* cigarettes involves a three-man guard riding shotgun.

The police and their pistols are replaced by a posse of soldiers with assault rifles for a trip to the entrance of the Casbah, a hotbed of GIA support whose centre seems *lost even to the army.* The chance for spontaneous interviews is diluted to say the least.

The ambassador does not believe the level of the security for the media is unrealistic. "If ten of you went out in different directions alone one morning to work unescorted, the odds are rather heavily against you *all returning safely at the end* of the day," he says.

Despite the risk, more than 400 British citizens remain in Algeria, most of them working for the hydro-carbon industry and living in protected bases in the Sahara to the south. Others have work that puts them at extreme risk along the coast.

Father John Macwilliam has probably the most difficult job for a foreigner. He is the only British priest in the country. A member of the White Fathers, a Roman Catholic order founded in Algiers in 1868, he has lived among the Muslim population for the past two years. He is trying to reopen a house for the order in Tizi Ouzou, east of Algiers.

It was closed at the end of 1994 when the four priests living there, who were trying to build up a library for the local university, were killed, *contributing to the total of* 19 priests and nuns to have been killed *since the war began.* About 200 clerics remain, in four dioceses.

Father Macwilliam travels without any escort and appears resigned to the threat. "There are still members of the Christian community who need us here and the majority *of Algerians are OK with our* being here."

As part of his training he studied Arabic and Islam and has built up a network of local friends that has ensured his survival. "The reason he has survived is because of this network," a diplomat said. "Local people advise him where to go and not to go, *where to stay and when to* leave."

☐ **President's victory:** The National Democratic Rally, the party of President Zeroual's supporters, topped the poll yesterday in the first Algerian local elections in seven years, winning 5.4 million votes, according to the Interior Ministry. *(Reuters)*

Tehran welcomes UK ‘olive branch’

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

A DECISION by Britain to issue an *exclusion order* against the leader of Iran's *main opposition group has* been seen in Tehran as a welcome *olive branch to the* relatively moderate new regime.

"It marks a significant shift in Britain's policy to Iran and we find it very interesting," an Iranian Foreign Ministry official said yesterday. "Europe always expects us to take a strong stand against terrorism, so it is good to see a European country understanding our concerns about *terrorist groups.*"

The ban against Mariam Rajavi, leader of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, who flits between bases in Paris and Baghdad, was issued on Wednesday. A spokesman for the Foreign Office, which has declined to describe the move as an overture, said: "The Home Secretary is determined *that* her presence in the UK would *not be conducive to the public* good. It's also for reasons of foreign policy and because of the need to take a firm stance against terrorism."

Earlier this month Washington declared the group's largest faction, the Mujahidin al Khalq, a terrorist organisation and barred its officials from the US.

Persecution of Christians ‘rife under Arafat’

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE *few remaining* Christians in West Bank areas of the Holy Land under the control of Yassir Arafat's Palestinian Authority are being persecuted, according to a report by the office of Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister.

The report, which provoked a furious response from Palestinian leaders in Bethlehem, details allegations that *Christian cemeteries* are being vandalised, churches burgled and Christian youngsters increasingly harassed by gangs of Islamic militants.

The damning report has exposed a division in Palestinian society where Christians are increasingly marginalised. In Bethlehem, which was 80 per cent Christian in 1948, Christians now form only 20 per cent of the population and their representation is decreasing still further through emigration.

The Prime Minister's office outlines how the Palestinian Authority has taken control of churches in the areas granted self-rule under the 1993 treaty and is pressuring their leaders to serve as mouthpieces for Mr Arafat, a Muslim.

An emergency meeting of Palestinian officials and some *local Christian leaders in* Bethlehem issued a statement condemning the report, as "Israeli propaganda which aims to cause a split in *Palestinian national unity*". It added that Christian emigration from the West Bank was caused by "oppressive Israeli measures" and accused Israel of preventing the return of many Christians to their homeland.

Among the Christian sites which have passed into Palestinian control is the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the focal point for Christmas celebrations *around the world* on Christmas Eve.

☐ **Hamas warning:** Khaled Maashal, the Hamas leader who escaped a bungled Mossad assassination attempt in Jordan, issued a warning last night that more suicide terror attacks would be launched against Israel in "the coming days".

Arafat: accused by Netanyahu's office

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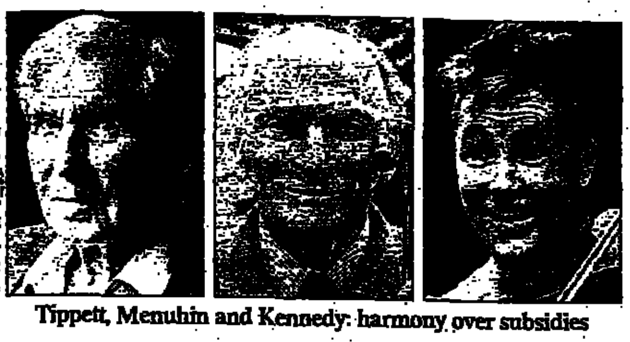
Cash lament orchestrated by maestros

Tippett, Menuhin and Kennedy say lottery could fund instrument 'bank', reports

Dalya Alberge



Tippett, Menuhin and Kennedy: harmony over subsidies

LEADING musicians including the composer Sir Michael Tippett and the violinists Lord Menuhin and Nigel Kennedy have called for lottery money to be spent on performers and their instruments, rather than on more buildings.

Sir Michael said yesterday: "It's badly needed for performers. There's not much point in having more money for concert halls if there is no money for the performers. One of the big problems in Britain is that so many orchestras have been on the verge of bankruptcy. Compare us with Spain or Germany, where practically all the orchestras are salaried and maintained by substantial public subsidy. In Britain, most are made up of freelance musicians who lead such a precarious living."

A similar tune was sounded by Lord Menuhin, who lamented that musicians are so badly paid: a rank-and-file performer in Britain averages £20,000, against £60,000 in America. "I want people to earn enough to live a good life," he said. "Society has to provide that, whether in money or in violins. People should be able to lead life with dignity."

The two men were speaking after *The Times* reported earlier this month that musicians cannot afford to buy instruments. Anthony Woodcock, managing director of the Bournemouth Orchestras, said that performers who earn £18,000 a year cannot pay £50,000 for the tools of their trade; without better instruments, performances are *suffering*.

Nigel Kennedy suggested that lottery money could establish a central bank of instruments. The danger of buying instruments for individual orchestras, he said, was that if a player wanted to leave, he or she would have to go back to playing on "balsa wood". A trust could enable players eventually to buy the instruments and play with the orchestra of their choice, assuming they were accepted.

He spoke of being struck by the quality of sound produced by overseas orchestras, which had strings to match their playing. In Britain, he said, talented players were constantly battling against their instruments when conductors asked for more. "Possibly the Arts Council could give orchestras better salaries. String players should be allowed a family. After a car, two kids and a normal house, on an orchestral salary there is nothing left apart from a bigger debt. They deserve more."

Nigel Brown: fears British players are suffering

Nigel Brown, a Cambridge investment manager and amateur violinist, is among a handful of individuals in Britain who help musicians to acquire instruments. He, too, called for a central fund. "British players are suffering without good instruments," he said. "Our most talented musicians have their careers capped by inferior instruments. Having a really good instrument acts like a kicker in a career."

In 1984, after attending a London Symphony Orchestra concert in which Kennedy played Brahms on a Guarneri lent to him by Charles Beare, one of the world's leading dealers, Mr Brown asked the violinist why no one had bought him an instrument. "He said, 'Because no one's offered'." Mr Brown was inspired to set up an instrument-lending scheme, through which players are able to buy the instruments gradually. Nine musicians have so far been helped by Mr Brown.

During the past 17 years, the Loan Fund for Musical Instruments, a charity, has lent some £2 million to young professional musicians, also enabling them to buy instruments. Albert Frost, the treasurer, said that all £2 million had been repaid. "We've not had a bad debt." Musicians have five years in which to pay back the loan. "The interest rate is only 2 per cent, compared with banks, perhaps 12 per cent. Most won't lend money." But he added: "We've noticed that there seems to be a falling-off in applications. There is an unease in the profession. Salaries are getting lower. With homes, cars, families, and rail-fares to be paid for, musicians are wary of getting themselves too far committed."

KEITH SAUNDERS

György Pauk: "The quality of Italian instruments is unsurpassed at the moment"

David Nolan: his violin is valued at £200,000-plus

Julian Tear: "There is a difference between old and new"

GYÖRGY PAUK

THE solo violinist, born in Hungary, plays a 1714 Stradivarius. "It is very beautiful," he said, recalling his disbelief some 26 years ago at being offered such an instrument.

"I was playing with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, for the second time. A violin collector who came to the concert came to see me in the artists' room and asked me to see his instruments. I did. I played about five of his instruments. He asked me, 'Which one do you like?' and then said, 'You can have it'. He lent it to me. After five years, I felt uncomfortable. I thought he or his children might want it back. I asked him, 'Would you consider selling it to me?' He did, for a ridiculous price." The musician and the collector, an American businessman and amateur musician, remain great friends.

Commenting on the difference between playing a Strad and a modern instrument, Pauk said: "The quality of Italian instruments is unsurpassed at the moment. I was on the jury last week of an international competition in Hanover. They had a lecture on Strads. They were talking about what makes it. It's the quality, the warmth, the depth of the sound. They've tried everything to analyse it. But up to today, it's been a secret."

DAVID NOLAN

LEADER of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, he plays a 1770 Storioni violin which, he said, "some people consider the equal of Strads". He paid £5,000 for his first instrument 25 years ago: "That was a lot of money then. Gradually, each time I got a better violin." This one is valued at £200,000 plus.

Its acquisition was made possible by bank loans and "a lot of self-denial", sacrificing luxuries such as holidays and a decent car.

"It's been a real struggle to have it. If I was starting as a player straight out of music conservatoire with lots of talent but no money, it would be impossible. God knows what they do. They don't. They can't afford it. Yet it's crucial for the health of a top symphony orchestra. The gloss and sheen of a string sound needs these Italian instruments. It's a general quality of sound. Orchestras can make a good sound without them, but it's not the same. You need the gloss of that warm string sound."

JULIAN TEAR

A VIOLINIST with the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields Orchestra for ten years, who also freelances with ensembles such as the English Chamber Orchestra, he plays an Italian instrument made two years ago by Alceste Bulfari. Its quality, he said, is superb. "The instrument I've got plays as well as older instruments. No question. But 99 times out of 100 there is a difference between the old and new ones. A lot of modern instruments don't measure up to older ones simply because they have not had the time."

He said that the maker is not well-known and produces only ten instruments a year. When he visited the workshop, there were ten instruments, all spoken for. "I would have bought any one."

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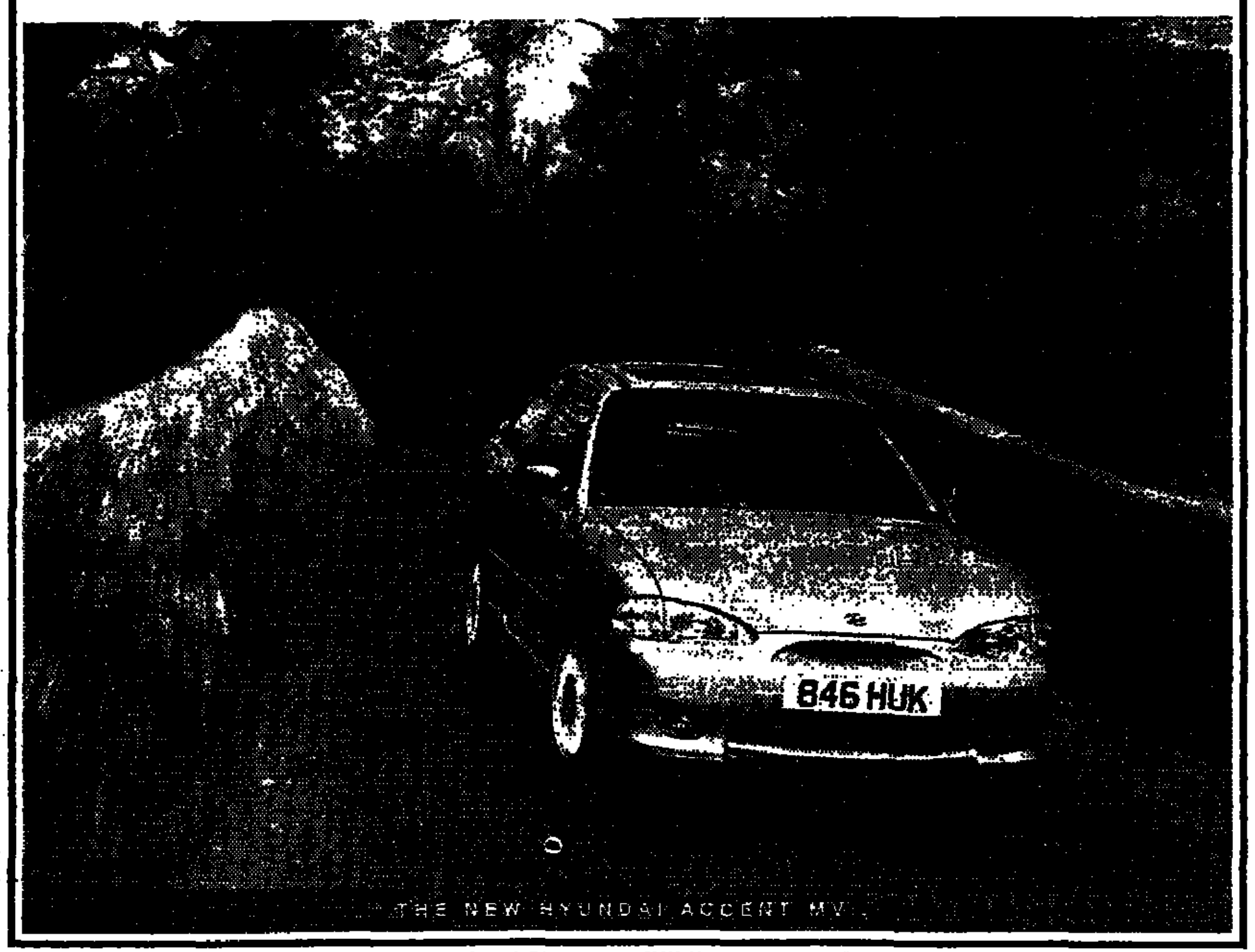

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Blood on the street

Frank Partnoy, *a former trader in* the secret world of derivatives, is sending tremors through international high finance by taking the lid off the billion-dollar scandal of the Nineties

Read his exposé in News Review tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Woman wins claim for failed implants

Hospital must pay £20,000 after carrying out mastectomy without consent when breast implants began to leak, reports **Ian Murray**

A WOMAN who claimed her breasts were left grossly deformed after complications set in following the insertion of silcone implants was awarded *£20,636 damages by the High* Court yesterday.

Christine Williamson, a fashion designer, won the sum because of the hospital's failure to obtain her consent for surgery to remove her right breast and much of her chest muscle.

The court was told that her left breast was also left unnecessarily scarred by the surgery at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London in April 1994.

Mrs Williamson, 48, of Clapton, East London, was a psychologically vulnerable woman whose breasts were of "paramount" importance to her, Mr Justice Butterfield said.

Mrs Williamson, a now divorced mother of two, had the implants inserted in 1979. She began to suffer hardening of the breasts in 1982 and had several corrective procedures. In December 1992, she consulted a plastic surgeon at Bart's, James Harvey-Kemble, complaining she had lost her *confidence and her marriage* was on the rocks because of the problem.

Mrs Williamson said she had told Mr Harvey-Kemble of her fears that the softening operation he performed had ruptured the right implant—a recognised risk of the procedure — but he had refused to treat her. Rejecting her negligence claim against the surgeon, the judge said Mrs Williamson was confused in her recollection. The surgeon had denied telling her that there was nothing he could do.

But the judge criticised the failure of another Bart's plastic surgeon, Dalia Nield, to inform Mrs Williamson properly of her intention to carry out surgery in 1994.

Mrs Williamson had expected an operation to replace the silicone implants with saline versions. She did not see, and was not asked to sign, any further consent form or an amendment of the existing form. The absence of her signature pointed strongly to the form being altered out of Mrs Williamson's presence and after Mrs Nield had examined her.

Mr Justice Butterfield rejected Mrs Nield's claim that Mrs Williamson understood and accepted her explanation that her deteriorating condition called for more drastic surgery. He nevertheless rejected Mrs Williamson's argument that the operation — a subcutaneous mastectomy — was both excessive and unnecessary.

Mrs Nield said she had never seen a worse case — silicone was everywhere, making the operation the only solution. Her view was backed by two other experienced doctors who attended.

The judge said he viewed the operation as necessary at that point or later because of leakage. The damages were awarded against Bart's, which is part of the Royal London Hospital and the London Chest Hospital NHS Trust, which had denied negligence.

Mrs Williamson said last night that when she had had the implants she had not realised how dangerous they could be. "Women should be warned that implants can rupture, and if that happens it is essential to get treatment immediately."

She said she hoped now to have a breast reconstruction, but this would cost £30,000.

JAMES HORTON

Christine Williamson, who said the failure of the implants had damaged her confidence

Porch storm blows up into £30,000 bill

By Peter Foster

A PETTY row between two neighbours was settled yesterday after five years of legal wrangling at a cost of £30,000.

The dispute arose when Peter and Janet Grove decided to build a tiny porch on to their terraced house to shield the front door from rain. The meagre construction, built by Mr Grove, a retired builder, protrudes 3ft into a common driveway and has remained unfinished for six years.

Yesterday, after much deliberation, three High Court judges overturned a county court ruling that had left the Grove family owing £15,000 in costs to their neighbour Derek Minor.

Mrs Grove said: "We had no idea that the porchway would cause all this trouble until a letter arrived one morning from Mr Minor's solicitor just after we started work on it. We stopped building and have been fighting a legal battle ever since.

"We kept trying to negotiate a settlement but Mr Minor always refused. Even the day before the case came to London we offered to pull down the porch, pay him £4,000 towards his costs and give him right of way, but he still refused."

The hearing was told how the Groves, of Allscott, Shropshire, were faced with bitter opposition from Mr Minor, who claimed that the porch would obstruct access for vehicles to his cottage.

In February 1992 Mr Minor won his case at Telford County Court after Judge Desmond Perrett ruled that the porch did obstruct the right of way and ordered the Groves to pull it down. But the Groves, who did not have legal aid, decided to appeal.

Anthony Radevsky, for the couple, told appeal judges lords justices Hirst, Swinton-Thomas and Millet: "No vehicle has ever wished to use the access way to reach number 11 which was obstructed by it."

After the ruling Mr Minor, who also funded his own case, was ordered to pay all the High Court and county court costs, estimated at £30,000 by the Groves' lawyers.

Mr Grove said later that he would "quietly get on with building the porch".

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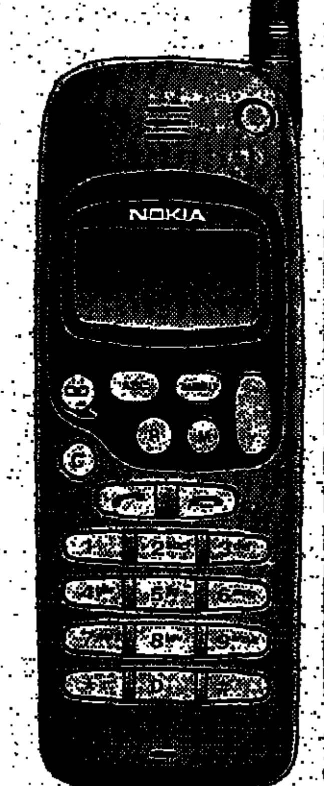

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The case of the murderous messenger

Michael Gove sifts through the conflicting clues to find the guilty parties in the strange case of the massacre in the marketplace

WHO bludgeoned the Government's credibility? If it were Agatha Christie telling the story, it would be *Ten Little Spinners*. If it was on film, it would be *The Long Black Friday*. And if it was Cluedo, it could be Charlie Whelan in the Red Lion with the mobile phone.

The blame for finishing off the "honeymoon couple", Gordon and Tony, has been laid firmly at the door of those who brief on their behalf. An attempt to state clearly where Labour stood on the single currency led markets to fall and, with them, the stock of this administration.

The responsibility for sowing confusion where clarity was required has been pinned on the Chancellor's press secretary, the voluble Charlie Whelan, Whitehall's Bob Hoskins, who believes it's good to talk but only on a non-attributable basis.

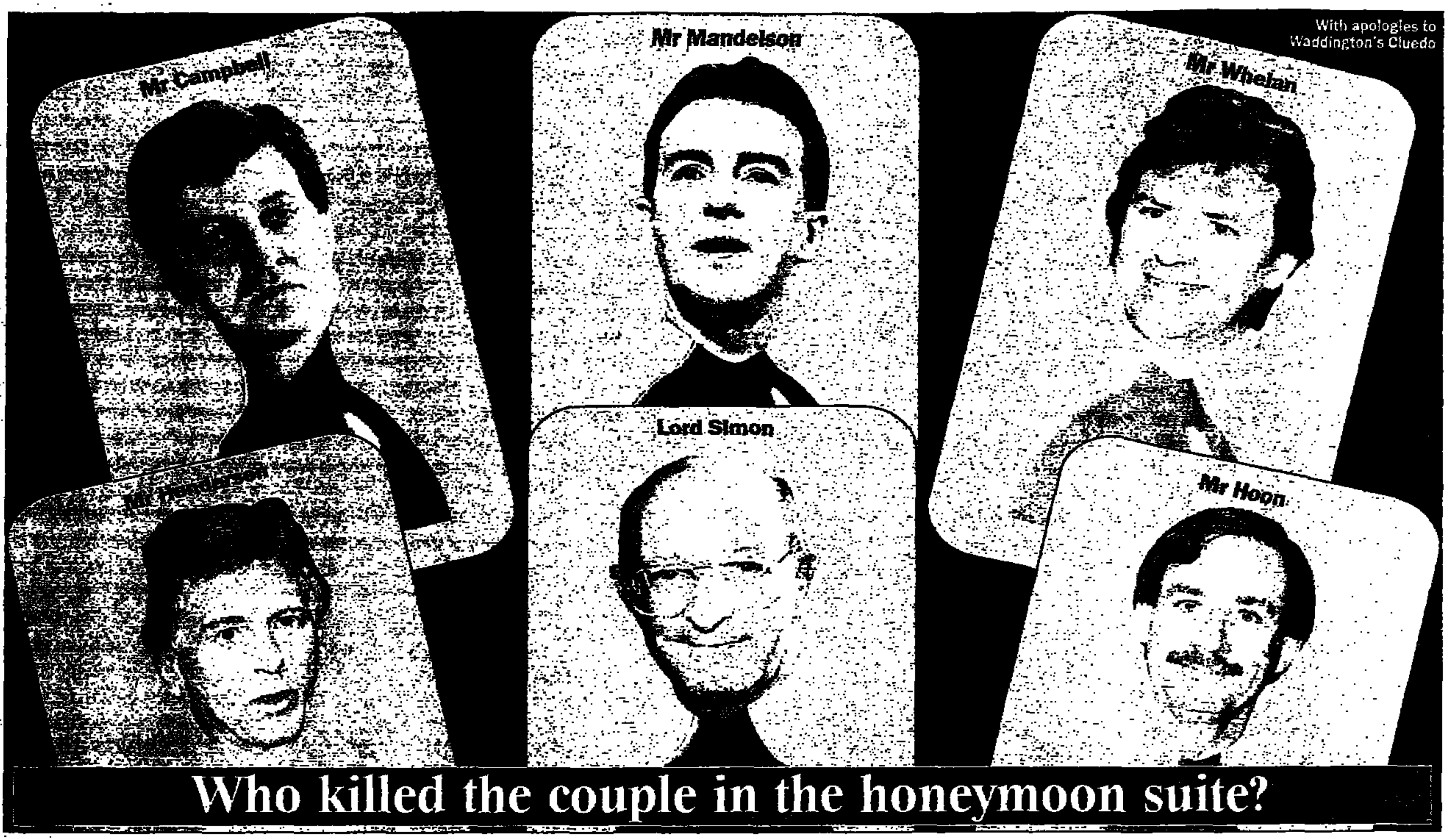
The truth, however, is different. Mr Whelan was faithfully reflecting the leadership line in a manner authorised from the top. He has now been more spinned against than spinning. The problems Labour experienced last week, and experience still, spring from conflicting impulses within the Government beween pragmatists and European idealists, and from the apparent ambitions of Peter Mandelson to be both messenger and meddler.

John Major once, presciently, described Europe as a wolf coming up the path to destroy his Government. This Government first heard the distant howl on Friday, September 26, with a story in the *Financial Times* by Robert Peston, its political editor. He quoted "ministerial" sources who argued that the increasing likelihood of a successful launch for the European single currency was inclining the Government in favour of early entry.

The effect of the front page of the "city bible" was instant. The pound fell at the prospect of permanent union with the lira and escudo. A cheaper pound helps exports, and so shares shot up. The virtuous combination of cheaper pound and higher share prices was exactly what the Treasury wanted and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, was known to favour early entry to EMU, so the source of the story seemed clear.

Too clear for the Treasury. The day the story appeared, two of Brown's closest aides were at pains to deny they were flying any kites. They could not deny that there had been a leak from their department until they had talked to all the ministers, but both were adamant that Brown was not behind an article one called a "punt" and the other termed "bollocks".

On the Sunday after the *FT* story, the airwaves carried the sound of singing from the same hymn sheet as Brown and Robin Cook rubbished the Peston piece. The *FT's* political editor robustly defended his story on *The World this Weekend* and insisted that it was the product of several conversations and not a speculative over-interpretation of one briefing. His adamance fired speculation among other journalists to the real sources. The deep throat was believed to belong to one of several middle-ranking ministers close to Blair or Brown and committed to a more pro-European stance. Doug Henderson, the normally cautious Europe Minister, and Geoff Hoon, the former MEP who is now Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, were fingered. But the name most often whispered was that of Lord Simon of Highbury, the former BP chairman and Trade Minister, whose commitment to the single currency was often advertised before he joined the Government.



Who killed the couple in the honeymoon suite?

The rumours attaching themselves to his name inspired the Shadow Trade Secretary John Redwood to prompt Lord Tebbit to table searching questions in the Upper House last Wednesday. On Friday, Simon deployed a familiar disavowal of ministerial responsibility and claimed he had been on holiday.

The search for Peston's source, although an entertaining sub-plot, was not, however, the question of first importance. Whether the original story was faithful to Brown's inclination, — and insiders vehemently maintain it was not — its appearance created turbulence well beyond the markets. It fed an appetite within the press and the Labour Party for evidence of tension between a pro-single currency Chancellor and a more cautious Prime Minister. The existence of tensions between Brown and Blair may owe more to rivalry among their courts than dissension between the two men, but there are enough partisans on either side to lend rumours weight. Several papers had been preparing new pieces on the theme for Sunday October 19. Egos aside, both Brown and Blair realised that continued coverage which placed them at loggerheads on the single currency, with Brown dragging Blair towards Brussels, would distract attention from other matters and risk a rerun of the debilitating speculation which had preceded Margaret Thatcher's ill-fated entry to the ERM. It was decided that Brown would blow the whistle on the press's game by spelling out the genuine scepticism towards early entry which existed at the highest level.

> ‘Tensions between Brown and Blair may owe more to rivalry among their courts’

Accounts differ as to who felt a statement was necessary: a Prime Minister determined to rein in his Chancellor, or a Chancellor annoyed at being traduced, but it was agreed that a definitive statement ruling out early entry to EMU should be made by the Chancellor. He had, until then, been disinclined to state authoritatively that the Government was cool on the subject. The only uncertainty was whether to couch the policy of standing aloof in chronological, or political terms — the lifetime of this Parliament or until 2001. An interview with the Chancellor had been fixed with *The Daily Telegraph* for Thursday the 16th, but *The Times's* political editor, Phil Webster, aware of the genuine scepticism in Downing Street towards early entry, had been trying for about ten days to persuade Brown to state his feelings on the record. Since Webster had read the trend accurately, it was decided he should be given the necessary confirmation.

On the afternoon of last Friday, the 17th, Webster interviewed Brown by telephone at his Dunfermline base both about the single currency and the wider economy. Webster had been faxed a passage on the single currency, including two crucial paragraphs agreed the night before by Brown and Blair. In them, Brown made clear that declining to enter in 1999 would mean the Government's task was "to deliver a period of sustainable growth, tackle long-term weaknesses in the economy and continue to press for reform in Europe".

"Sustainable", "long-term", "continue to press". The signals, as Webster noted, were loud and clear. It would take time, a long time, before Britain would enter after 1999. Webster appreciated that these paragraphs made obvious that in effect, no entry was possible in this Parliament, and had his interpretation confirmed by No 11.

Charlie Whelan took the precaution of alerting editors on other titles that *The Times* had a story which was neither a punt nor a profanity. He was not the only spin doctor to attest to the story's importance. Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, briefed a number of journalists underlining the importance of The Times story. No 10 and No 11 were as one.

Whelan's briefings were conducted by mobile phone from the pavement outside the *Red Lion* pub in Whitehall, where he had been drinking with Ed Miliband, another of Brown's advisers. The informal nature of his spinning was used by others to undermine his authority, but although Whelan may not have been by his minister's side he was his master's voice.

Editors may have been informed early and in full, but others were left outside the loop. Roger Liddle, the Europe adviser at the No 10 Policy Unit, nearly choked on his marmalade at a Foreign Office conference when he read *The Times* story on Saturday morning. Although some No 10 advisers, notably the economics expert Derek Scott, are gentle sceptics, Liddle is an ardent pro-European. His consternation was shared by an old friend, Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio and, on this occasion, without the magic circle.

Mandelson, cool in his relations with Brown and arctic towards Whelan, was reported to be distressed at the sceptical turn and his exclusion. An alternative spin on the events of the weekend began to emanate. *The Mirror* on Monday 20th assured its readers policy had not changed. An exposed *FT* sought to play down the significance of the Brown interview, earning its political editor a dressing-down from Mr Campbell.

> ‘For sleuths in City and Westminster, Mandelson's fingerprints were all too apparent’

The mixed messages emanating from the Government had upset the markets. When Brown visited the City on Monday 20th, banks of red figures on dealers' screens signalled the markets' displeasure. The anger of pro-Europeans in the Blair circle, or rather those who were now uncomfortably outside it, found another outlet.

In the *New Statesman* on Thursday 23rd, an "inside account" of the week's events fingered Whelan and Campbell, who was apparently "ignorant about Europe", as well as confidently predicting what Brown would say in a forthcoming statement.

He would, the magazine predicted, review Britain's convergence with continental economies, and thus the prospects for EMU entry, on an annual basis. For sleuths at Westminster and the City, the fingerprints of Mandelson were all too apparent. The "annual review" idea had been floated to City figures from sources close to Mandelson over the previous weekend. When the idea was bounced off Brown's friends their response was categoric: such a strategy would fuel uncertainty, not dowse it.

When Brown addresses the House of Commons this Monday, he will need to provide greater clarity than he has done before if the Government's credibility is not to take another battering.

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	£10,000+	6.60	5.28	6.35	5.08
	£25,000+	6.65	5.32	6.40	5.12
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KELVIN BOYES

A "*punishment squad*": the political wings espouse peace, but the violence continues

They talk of peace; the deeds are dirty

The price of keeping paramilitaries at negotiations is to keep quiet about their thugs, reports **Martin Fletcher**

TALK to Mary Maskey about Northern Ireland's ceasefire and she snorts with derision. "*That word makes me sick. It's just a joke. It means nothing — it never has and it never will.*"

Ms Maskey — not her real name — is a young single mother with four small children. She and her family are living in a hostel near London, but she will not say where. Six weeks ago she was beaten senseless. Three weeks ago loyalist paramilitary thugs forced her to flee her native town of Larne in Co Antrim.

Twenty miles south of Larne, the political representatives of loyalist and republican paramilitary organisations sit at the Stormont peace talks, having solemnly committed themselves to the so-called Mitchell principles of democracy and non-violence. They can justifiably claim that the bombings and sectarian warfare have largely ceased. But on the tough, sprawling housing estates of Northern Ireland, the violence and intimidation continue unabated.

Ms Maskey is a Roman Catholic who lived on a mixed housing estate. As she tells it, two masked men armed with baseball bats broke into her house at 2.45am. They went up to the bedroom where she was sleeping with her sister and her baby daughter, and beat her unconscious.

Ms Maskey suffered a fractured skull, had to have her right ear sewn back on, and is still partially deaf and partially blind in her right eye. Her baby lost her right index finger. Her sister required stitches to her head. She says the assailants were loyalist paramilitaries hired by a local drug dealer who had argued with a member of her family. After nine days in hospital, Ms Maskey moved into her mother's house. Three weeks ago a letter arrived. She thought it was a get-well card until she opened it. Inside were words to the effect of: "Get out of Larne while you can. Giving false accusations to the police doesn't work." Ms Maskey and her children caught the 10pm ferry to Stranraer that night. "I couldn't breathe for fear," she said.

According to the Royal Ulster Constabulary, there have been 17 shootings, assaults, kneecappings and punishment beatings carried out by republican paramilitaries since the IRA renewed its ceasefire on July 20, and 25 by their loyalist counterparts. The total for the first 6½ months of the year was 143.

After a brief lull, the level of violence is creeping up to pre-ceasefire levels. "It's quite clear that there are incidents; quite serious incidents, involving assaults and the exclusion of people from their communities still going on," an RUC spokesman said. "A number of these certainly fall into the category of paramilitary-style assaults."

Last Saturday three masked men with a baseball bat dislocated the leg of a 21-year-old man walking along a road in Lisburn, Co Antrim, just before 1am. At midday a gunman walked into a bookmakers just off the Falls Road in West Belfast and shot an 18-year-old in both legs. That evening a group of masked thugs entered a house in Lisburn and broke the arms of two 16-year-old boys.

In the first two weeks of this month, Families Against Intimidation and Terror (FAIT), a Belfast human rights group, has been contacted by 15 people who have received death threats or been forced from their homes by the self-styled paramilitary vigilantes who control the estates.

FAIT said one couple with four children were ejected from a Protestant estate because theirs was a "mixed" marriage. The IRA evicted another family from an estate into which they had moved two weeks earlier because the father had once been a joyrider. The IRA ejected another man, recently returned from an IRA-imposed exile abroad, after a neighbour complained about his music.

Between June and September this year, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive has had to rehouse 132 families who have left their homes because of intimidation.

The paramilitaries' goal is "to let people know in areas where they are strong that they are still there and still maintain power and control", Sam Cushnahan, FAIT's director, said. If they stopped their violence "people would begin to speak out against them. They would lose control."

In signing up to the Mitchell principles, Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, and the loyalist Ulster Democratic and Progressive Unionist parties representing the Ulster Defence Association and Ulster Volunteer Force, promised to take "effective steps" to stop punishment beatings and killings. The violence continues but no one is calling the parties to account.

Both sides are equally culpable. The thugs generally operate on a "no claim, no blame" basis and no longer broadcast their affiliations. One authoritative source suggested that the Government and security forces were deliberately playing down the problem because they were "more concerned about keeping these paramilitaries in the talks".

Another major reason is that the victims are terrified of speaking out. Even Ms Maskey, now hidden in southern England, refused to take a second telephone call from *The Times*.

Hugh Lewsley, an independent councillor from West Belfast's Catholic Twinbrook estate, knows how the paramilitaries operate. Last week he called Sinn Fein a fascist organisation on television; two days later his house was attacked. In 1995 he was badly beaten after condemning the IRA for evicting families for being "antisocial".

Another man who has spoken out is Thomas Marley. His 21-year-old son Gerard had his legs broken by the IRA for joyriding. A week after the ceasefire, Gerard hanged himself from railings because of the constant taunts of the paramilitaries who crippled him. "The IRA say they are defending the people from the British," Mr Marley said, "but they are the ones who are terrorising the community."

PACEMAKER

Hugh Lewsley after an IRA beating in 1995. This month his house was attacked when he criticised the terrorists

MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS

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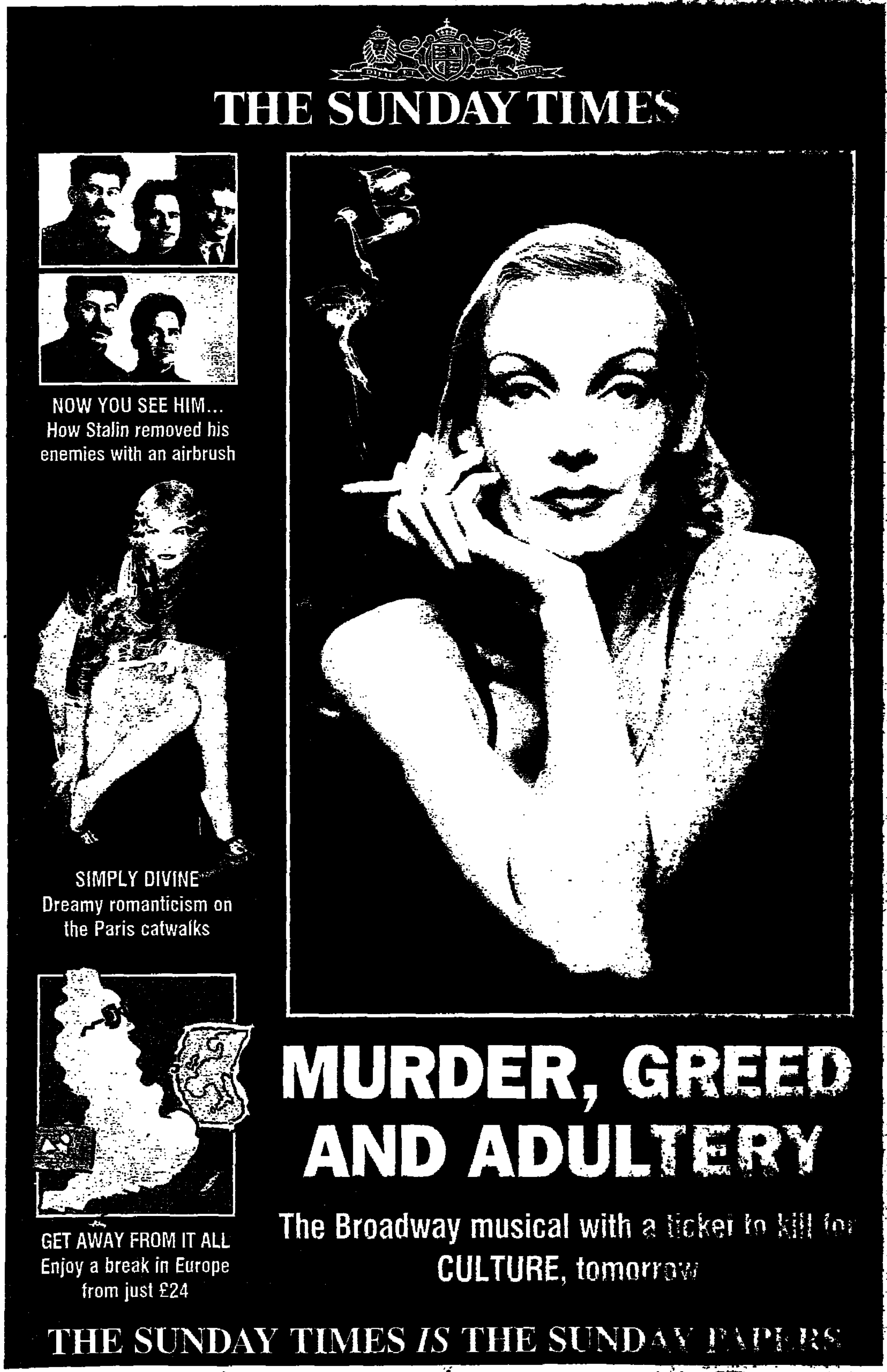

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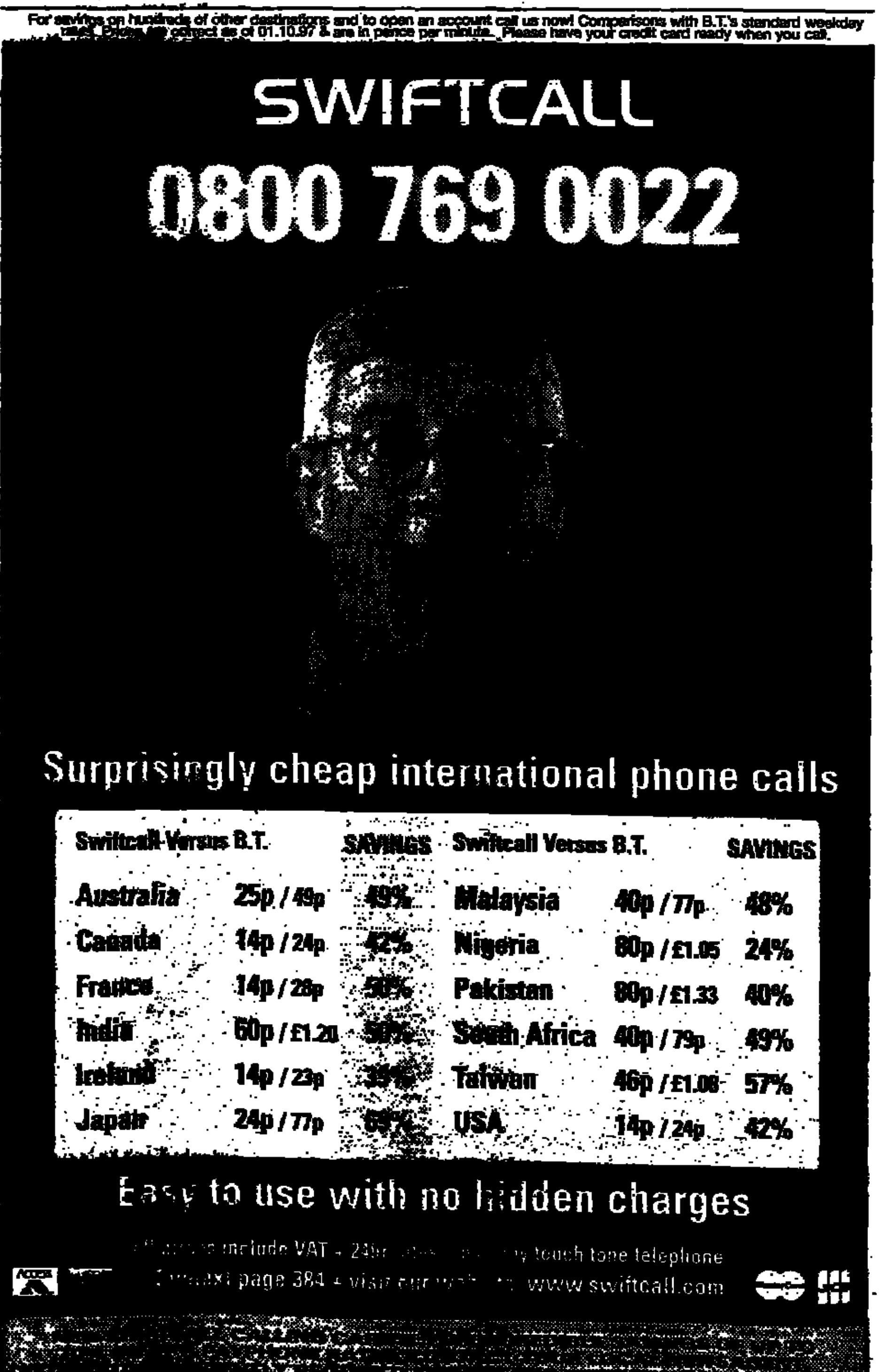

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All the president's mien

Mary McAleese is campaigning to be Ireland's new Mary Robinson. But there are invisible barriers to overcome

BRIAN GAVIN

Mary McAleese, chic and well-coiffed, campaigning in Thurles. "I came out of the tradition that says you must give something back to your country"

I am watching a tall slim woman of 46, dressed in a chic trouser suit (by Deborah Veale, Irish designer), striding down the main street of a small Irish town, her reddish hair well-coiffed, bestowing smiles and greetings left and right.

I have been here before: seven years ago exactly, when the buzz from Dublin was that a woman — a *woman* — might swing the presidency of Ireland. Mary Robinson changed things for ever. Another Mary is going to take over from her next Thursday when the nation votes. It will be either Mary McAleese or Mary Banotti, and with only three days to go (this weekend is a Bank Holiday in the Republic), it is neck and neck.

McAleese, who doesn't even have a vote in the South, still has much going for her, despite last week's tarrings with the Sinn Fein brush in what Mary Holland has called "a squalid poll that has opened tribal splits we'd hoped were healed".

Robinson was high-profile, energetic, marketable. She could wear Irish designer suits with style. She was new. But that was then: this is now. McAleese — equally presentable, just as brainy (she held, like Robinson, a junior professorship in law at Trinity College, Dublin at the age of 24) articulate (she's been a television presenter) and a Roman Catholic, married to a dentist, appears a natural successor to Robinson.

But she remains a northern nationalist, and precisely because Robinson extended the limits and paved the way, the going is tough. I told her how many of her utterances sound identical to the early Robinson, especially when voicing hopes for the future. Has nothing changed or improved in the past seven years?

"This is the same country," McAleese said, "and the same issues are going forward for the next seven years. But the backdrop is different. The peace talks are the backdrop, which is what I would like to be able to help and encourage. I obviously come from a nationalist background: I am a nationalist who hopes for a political consensus soon in Northern Ireland."

I remark that her speeches do not mention the fact that her family was left homeless after an attack on their Crumlin Road house in 1974, nor that her father's two pubs were burned and bombed. Nor that her profoundly deaf younger brother was beaten up and left for dead by loyalists.

"Everyone knows about that," she said, "and there comes a point where people wonder if you're obsessed by it. My commitment to forgiveness and tolerance does not come from my experience as a victim." There is obviously much of human interest in her story, but she is guarded towards the press, who watch the effusive public performances of an intelligent, confident, and highly presentable woman — all the ingredients for a good president — but judge her patronising, evasive and intimidating to those she might woo. No wonder she has found the press "not terribly helpful".

While campaigning, Mary Robinson used to sit down for 20-minute talks with each journalist, which gave us a chance of forming a personal view. McAleese allows five hacks a brief cluster just before she gives a speech, a minder standing by with a five-minute stopwatch.

The Speech follows a formula. Her theme is building bridges, and the first gulf to be bridged is her northern origins. Astutely, Mary finds a link with every place she visits. In Athlone, an aunt and uncle in the audience; in Tullamore, she "cut her political teeth at the Geoghegans' table"; in Tralee, there is a football connection; in Kerry, she had honeymooned. Then there is the barefoot story. When her father was 14 he had to leave his home in the South and go North to find work. In his school photo, none of the children had shoes. Those times have gone. Her own three children (14-year-old daughter and twins of 12) are shod by Nike, Adidas and Reebok.

Next, she tells young audiences *how she was the eldest of nine*. (She is one of a clan of 60 cousins, her mother's family having followed the text about increasing and multiplying). Just when she was taking her A levels, her youngest brother was born, and he cried all night. "I was the one who had to get the other children off to school, and I was looking after the baby at night as well.

"I began to feel it wasn't worth the effort, that university was not for people like me. I wanted to give up. The word stress didn't exist *then. But one elderly teacher* named Miss O'Friel noticed intuitively some change in me, and she started to arrive every morning to take me to school in her battered Morris Minor. I have often reflected on her act of kindness. I went to

Valerie Grove

university, I got a good job. But I came out of the tradition that says you must give something back to your country."

Finally, she extols Ireland's modernity. Two phrases recur: "Ireland is a nation with its shoulders thrown back" and "We are the success story of Western Europe".

She has worked in Dublin and in Belfast, where she is Pro-Vice Chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast; the first woman and the first Catholic to hold that job. But of course, a Belfast upbringing has endowed her with an accent. It was a shock to me to hear radio, *television and newspaper columnists* griping about that "harsh, irritating" northern accent of hers. It is not, in fact. But it certainly grates on the ears in trendy Dublin 4.

The flat-capped man in the street in Mullingar, on the other hand, seizes my sleeve to say that McAleese is "the only one by a long shot. Carries herself well. Same mannerisms as Mary Robinson, same hand gestures. She'll sail through it."

Not quite, however "apolitical" *the presidency is supposed* to be. She may be able to strip away her own "baggage" and extend an "unflinching hand of friendship" to make peace with the Unionists, but Unionists (who ended up loving Mary Robinson) do not yet feel the same way about McAleese. As she said: "The greatest barriers of all are in our own minds."

Her last speech on Thursday night was at the opening of the Ideal Home Exhibition in Dublin, a nightmarish display of all the most hideous things you could put inside a house. She made a noble speech, remembering seeing at the *first Ideal Home Exhibition*, her first fitted kitchen, her first Venetian blind.

She invoked Irish pride in home ownership but said it was depressing that the downside of wealth creation is that house prices are now beyond the reach of the young.

On the BBC's *Question Time* from Belfast, John Hume is speaking with soft-voiced reason. If Hume had stood, he might have proved more acceptable than any of *the five existing candidates*.

As it is, it will not be a shoo-in for either of the Marys, but it is McAleese who people are talking about. Which should work to her advantage in a chattering country — but might not.

Hard-up widow fails to raise a laugh

ON paper the Royal Opera's new production of Lehár's *Merry Widow* looked failsafe. There is a Viennese conductor (Dietfried Bernet), a classy double act in Felicity Lott and Thomas Allen, who sing and speak their lines with innate stylishness, and the tried and trusted production team of Graham Vick (director), Richard Hudson (designer) and Ron Howell (choreographer). So it is hard to say precisely why the first night fell as flat as last month's *sachertorte*, though an audience resolutely determined not to enjoy itself had a lot to do with it. Smart line after smart line in Jeremy Sams's new *translation went by without so* much as a rustle of recognition, let alone a titter.

Perhaps it all boils down to a question of millions — and not the Widow's millions either. The famous £78 million from the Lottery, in which the company is supposed to be wallowing, is of course — as commentators either will not or choose not to recognise — earmarked for the rebuilding of the *Opera House. The company itself* is simply poverty stricken and on this showing looks it.

OPERA FIRST NIGHT

The Merry Widow
Shaftesbury Theatre

But operetta has got to *look* expensive, and this doesn't: the costume fabrics look cheap, there simply aren't enough people to populate even the Shaftesbury Theatre's small stage, and Jennifer Pipton's flat lighting fails to breathe the slightest whiff of romance into the plain box set.

There are nice moments in Vick's direction — raucous showgirls as the Grisettes, and Hanna paying Danilo for his waltz at the Act I curtain — and some curious miscalculations: the climax of Act II is killed stone dead by the whole company suddenly sitting down. It's all a bit too tasteful, and one longs for a sharp *injection of good old-fashioned* showbiz vulgarity. That goes for the music, too. Bernet could risk a bit more schmaltz without sending everyone's sugar-level soaring to health-threatening heights.

There is an excellent Valencienne in the young Armenian soprano Juliette Galstian, who can dance as well as she sings, and Claudio Desderi battles heroically with a speaking role in a language not his own. But the romantic tenor role is disastrously miscast and the comic, David Ross, works too hard and in the wrong idiom — all those Benny Hill-style jokes must go. Or is the Royal Opera serious about attracting a tabloid audience?

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The Boston Tea Party and Louise

Bronwen Maddox on cheap childcare and anti-British bias

It is a misfortune to be British in a Boston courtroom. That was my first thought, watching the careful, anxious, utterly compelling testimony of Louise Woodward, the British au pair accused of shaking one-year-old Matthew Eappen to death. My second reaction is that America is in a mess on the whole question of childcare. The seminar which Hillary Clinton hosted in the White House on Thursday conspired in the delusion that childcare is cheap — one the country must soon regret.

Whichever way one's sympathies lie, the Louise Woodward trial, which resumes on Monday, is a nightmarish case. At its heart, as the packed courtroom heard on Thursday, is conflicting, complicated medical evidence about the cause of the baby's death. The prosecution says he had injuries caused by shaking, the defence that he died from undetected internal bleeding which was weeks old.

That medical uncertainty plays on every working parent's fear about what exactly happens at home during the day. It also opens the door to all the nationalistic prejudices which can be projected on to Louise Woodward's blank, round face.

Those prejudices exist. Many people in Boston are outraged at suggestions that a young woman might not get a fair trial in their town just because she is British. But the depth of anti-British feeling in Boston can run deeper than innocent visitors might suspect. The British see Boston as the American city which, with its gaslights and brick town-houses, most resembles home.

I write as someone with a large web of Boston Irish and Italian relatives on one side of the family. For a start, there is the still-powerful Irish element in the city's politics. No politician seeking higher office, such as Tom Reilly, the district attorney in charge of the case, will gain many votes by being seen to go soft on the British.

Farther back, there is Boston's role as the crucible of the American Revolution, most famously in the 1773 Boston Tea Party, when merchants tipped the tea of the East India Company into Boston Harbour in protest against the company's monopoly, imposed by Westminster. Boston schoolchildren still recite the tale of "the midnight ride of Paul Revere" to warn the town that "the British are coming".

In some quarters, the British are still the enemy, even if they come in the guise of young schoolgirls. It is hard not to think that these factors have played a part in decisions such as making the charge against Louise Woodward one of first-degree murder, and refusing to grant her bail. Her bail application was denied even though she offered to wear an electronic tag and to stay with a prominent member of the local church, and even though her parents had offered to pledge their home as security. The influential *Boston Globe* attacked the court for the decision, accusing Mr Reilly of playing to anti-British sentiment.

Nor are British reserve and a British accent helpful to Louise Woodward. As she took the stand on Thursday, she displayed exactly the qualities you might want in an au pair: she was careful, ordered, methodical. But amid the drama of an American court, a British accent sounds clipped and flat. Her plump, impassive face helps her in that it gives the lie to the prosecution's case that she was a giddy teenager, but it damns her in the eyes of many who find her altogether "too calm". Diana, Princess of Wales's *Panorama* eyes and tear-swallowing voice would have helped her more, one suspects.

The real lesson from the case, however, is that America is indulging itself in the belief that childcare can be cheap. When you look at Louise Woodward, the folly is obvious. You cannot hire an 18-year-old, pay her far less than a trained adult on the ground that you are giving her foreign experience, deny her a grown-up social life and still expect her to assume the responsibilities of an adult.

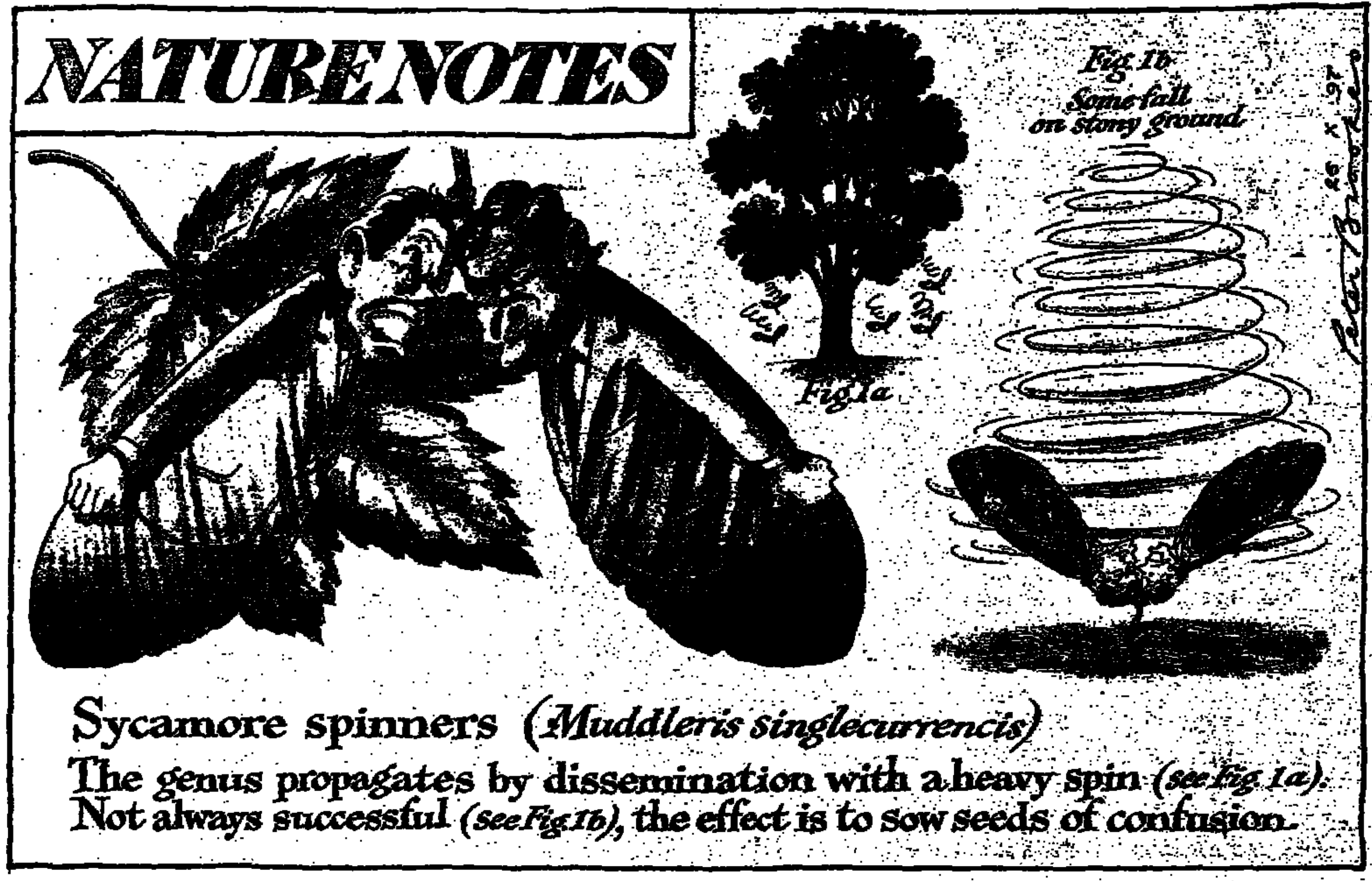
That is a lesson the Clintons should already know. In 1993, President Clinton lost Zoe Baird, a nominee for Attorney-General, to the "Nannygate" scandal, when it was revealed that she employed two illegal immigrants to look after her children, and also failed to pay their social security. Her explanation was that she was simply doing as thousands of professional women had done.

At the other end of the social scale, America's ambitious welfare reform experiment assumes a huge expansion of government-provided childcare. State governments plan to cut off benefits entirely to force people to find work. Insisting that the rules apply to single mothers, even those with babies just months old, many state governments are supplying childcare free of charge.

But this is costing a fortune, which may not be sustainable. Nor is there any reassurance that this "care" is good for these infants. Think-tanks are already worrying about the long-term effects.

That is why Hillary Clinton's initiatives, announced on Thursday, sound so hollow. Federal spending on the grand scale was not on offer, she made clear. She fell back hopefully instead on that old favourite of politicians with no money, "public-private partnerships".

Ten years from now, it will be harder to keep up that pretence. Childcare may well be the factor that causes the welfare experiment to unravel, and which forces working parents — even if not always mothers — to spend more time at home. Whether or not Louise Woodward did the things of which she stands accused, she is the victim of America's wishful thinking that childcare comes cheap.


NATURE NOTES
Fig 1b Some fall on stony ground
Fig 1a

Sycamore spinners (*Muddleris singlecurrencis*)
The genus propagates by dissemination with a heavy spin (*see Fig 1a*).
Not always successful (*see Fig 1b*), the effect is to sow seeds of confusion.

A collection of *Nature Notes* is now available in book form. To order a signed copy, see Weekend Page 13

The sceptical temptation

Brown should not rule out EMU, but wait and spin, says **John Lloyd**

If EMU is successfully launched, Britain will be a part of it. This is as near to a fact — not a Labour or a Conservative fact, but a British Government fact — as it is possible to come about a political decision still to be made.

This fact underpins the tortured manoeuvrings over this past week, which are set to culminate in a statement to be given to the reassembled House of Commons on Monday by the Chancellor. These manoeuvrings point to two worrying states of affairs: first, that there is a potential breach between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor, although not the one previously advertised; and secondly, that we may be about to have a decision taken to rule out entry to the European single currency for this Parliament, a decision which runs counter to prudent governance.

The breach between the two most powerful politicians in the country was advertised as being over Europe, with Tony Blair said to be sceptical and Gordon Brown an enthusiast. For all the nuances which exist in their positions, they do not amount to a quarrel. Both men believe that Britain should be part of a European currency that works and that to stay out would be damaging. But both also believe that economic and political reasons speak against early entry.

The tension between them is not over Europe, but is a matter of power. It has been dramatised in the past week by the issue of spin-doctoring, although the essence of the problem is not what the doctors did or did not spin, but what they represent.

Keeping the door open to entry is just prudent governance

Alastair Campbell is the Prime Minister's press secretary, and effective head of the Government Information Service. Charlie Whelan is Gordon Brown's private and political press secretary, who has no formal status in Government at all. He is part of the close and talented group of aides with whom Mr Brown has surrounded himself. He is not there, as other special advisers are, to assist on policy. He is explicitly there to promote the profile of the Chancellor.

This is a uniquely powerful Chancellor. Well before Labour came to Government, he envisaged Treasury control over much of the government machine — especially over the main spending departments such as Health, Social Security and Education — in part because they spend so much money but in greater part because they required restructuring and he wished to decide on, and in some measure even actually to do, that vast work. He has appointed a number of business people to think through this restructuring, all working parallel with, and no doubt in contradiction to, departmental ministers and their advisers. Mr Brown's Welfare to Work scheme involves a recasting of the delivery of services and benefits, of the shape of education and of assumptions about work.

He is a very mighty baron. The scope of his power encompasses not just a Treasury of unusual ambition, but a patronage which can extend protection to ministers such as Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary. She has frosty relations with Frank Field, her deputy, who has been entrusted by the Prime Minister with the task of rethinking the welfare state.

In a speech last month to a conference on "Modernising the Policy Process", Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio and still the closest of aides to the Prime Minister, endorsed Ferdinand Mount's description of the existing governmental system as "a loose baronial monarchy". The large tasks new Labour had set itself, he said, "demand a different, more effective system of government", with a "strong centre at its hub".

Before it has strengthened itself, the centre is challenged by the vast barony of the Treasury, its influence and patronage spreading throughout Government. Mr Whelan's crime is not his spin-doctoring, nor even that he departed from his master's text in spinning; but that he exists in his present form. For he is a standing reminder that the Chancellor is not just the most powerful minister, but that he has constituted a separate power centre, one with advisers who will not — as do civil servants — seek to ensure that Treasury concerns ultimately mesh with Prime Ministerial ones, but who are single-minded in the pursuit of his agenda.

The Prime Minister and the Chancellor remain close. As in Opposition, so in Government, they tend to meet without others present and to settle matters — to the fury of civil servants. But outside, their entourages and supporters fight a subterranean war of advantage — as if the heads of the Montagu and Capulet clans had agreed amicably to run Verona, while allowing their henchmen to lay ambushes for each other in the alleys.

Mr Mandelson believes that the wound Mr Brown inflicted on himself when he gave Mr Blair a clear run for the party leadership after the death of John Smith still bleeds. If so, the Chancellor stanches it by activity and the exercise of power. This past week, when his camp was seen to have mishandled an attempt to make clear that Prime Minister and Chancellor were united on Europe, he has suffered a setback; Mr Blair's ginger handling of his longtime ally may, after this, be less tinged with the guilt of having surpassed one to whose leadership qualities even he had once deferred.

What will be the outcome for policy? Mr Brown, it is now being said — or spun — will put an end to all speculation next week and rule out, finally, entry into EMU in this Parliament. Both Mr Campbell and Mr Whelan briefed after the Chancellor's interview with this newspaper a week ago that his cloudy comments meant no entry this side of an election. It is hard to believe that both could have so mistaken the messages they were given as to distort utterly the messages they passed on.

Delay did not rule out a pro-EMU rhetorical offensive

But I hope they did. For the Government's position before it hardened over this past week did make economic sense. It did not make short-term political sense, and if that consideration wins, it means that the worst side of new Labour triumphs over the better.

In discussions on EMU over the summer, it was recognised that economics and politics told against first-wave entry. The business cycle was out of kilter with the Continent, and sterling was overvalued; at the same time, a steady majority of the British refused to be attracted to the loss of sterling as their currency. The antidote was education, education, education — to win the people over to a view of the European Union more positive than that dinned in by years of near-chauvinism dressed up as statesmanship. Paddy Ashdown and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead were enthusiastic about an early referendum on entry while Labour was popular and the Opposition incoherent. This was considered, and rejected.

The posture decided upon was thus for delay — but delay interleaved with enthusiasm, and a gradually intensifying rhetorical offensive in favour of the European cause. And not just rhetoric: the Government has broken through the taboo which the Tories sought to erect about the social chapter, and published a White Paper allowing the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law.

Here was a reasonable, if undramatic, position. It was uncertain, but could not be otherwise. For the Government cannot know if EMU will succeed; how sterling will react; how much pressure will fall on British finance and industry if it does not succeed, nor how much pressure business — and organised labour — will put on the Government to get in quickly. And since it does not know, it should leave open the door of possibility of entry in this Parliament. It may not be likely, but it is possible. It is prudent guardianship of the nation's interests to say so, and to act upon it.

We should hope that Mr Brown reflects on this before he rises next week. Uncertainty, to be sure, is unwelcome to the City, but until last week, the City lived happily and profitably with it. Ruling out entry seems driven more by political than by economic considerations.

The Conservatives have responded in kind: their decision this week to rule out entry for *two* Parliaments, not one, is an apeing of the worst of new Labour. William Hague's disturbing propensity to steal his opponents' populism merely confirms the Tories' marginality. Labour should have the courage of its necessary uncertainty, and boldly speak out for continued sitting on the fence.

The author is associate editor of the New Statesman.
Simon Jenkins will return next week.

Are you a twitcher or a dude?

Simon Barnes on birdwatching and its pecking order

I dipped out on the Siberian rubythroat. Didn't even try for it. I left it to the several hundred twitchers who surrounded the poor windblown little scrap of feathers that fetched up in Dorset this week. So I was well and truly gripped off, wasn't I?

I don't twitch. That is to say, I don't chase rare birds. I don't even keep a list, despite the Bill Oddie Rule which states that all birders keep a list, even if it's only a list of the number of times they tell people they *don't* keep a list.

And besides, I have left it a bit late to join the elite of twitcher society. About ten years ago, a life list of 300 — that is to say, 300 species of bird that you have seen in Britain — was considered pretty good going. But soon, it was not until you reached 400 that you had broken the sound barrier and were cruising towards the upper levels of twitching.

Now, if you want to sup at the high table, then breaking 400 still leaves you with a marathon to travel. The top man in twitching is Ron Johns, who is now on 513. Among those close behind is Richard Millington, on 500, who runs Birdline, the twitchers' nationwide telephone information service.

I obtained these figures from Lee Evans, not so much the heir apparent to Ron Johns as the Bolingbroke. He is on 498. I reached him on his mobile in the Isles of Scilly, where he was chasing autumn migrants. "Much about?" I asked, the classic, indeed, the only meaningful birder's question. "Nah. Only common yellowthroat and blackpoll."

I am not at the high table, nor near enough to scrabble for the crumbs. But I know enough not to say: "I saw a Mediterranean gull in my garden." No: twitchspeak prefers: "I had Med gull the other week. Garden tick." I did, too. But oh, the condescension, even contempt I would arouse if it had been my first Mediterranean gull. Med gull? Huh! *Dude's* tick!

A dude, you see, is a person who has binoculars, likes birds, but is not to be taken seriously. An amateur, not an expert; a *dilettante*, not a *virtuoso*; a *Liebhaber*, not a *Kenner*. Metaphorically speaking, everybody is either a twitcher or a dude.

Now it is possible that I have given the impression that the world of twitchers is deeply status-conscious, to the point of snobbery. That there is a hierarchy that amounts to a caste system. If I have given this impression, then I have done an absolutely first-class job.

Twitching is riven with envy, ambition, pride, shame, hope and fear. Just like every other world. Twitching has its top people who have earned their place, its young aspirants, its threatening rivals, its no-hopers and never-wozzers. This does not make twitching unique.

Try hanging your blazer on Ian Botham's peg at a Test match. Try bagging the place by the radiator if you are an apprentice jump jockey. Try taking Tony Blair's chair at a Cabinet meeting. Try, for that matter, sitting in Mr Wilkins's choir stall — Mr Wilkins, who has led the choir (by about half a bar) for the past 40 years.

It is tempting to assume that English people must create a class system wherever they find themselves. But it- more to do with the human hunger for hierarchy. If we can't be boss, then it helps to know who is. It is not so much snobbery as an ineluctable part of human nature. Meanwhile, status-seekers, something for the weekend. There's a Blyth's reed warbler *and* a pied wheater in Yorkshire as I write . . .

Regal rider

COCKING a snook at the dreary notion of a bicycling monarchy, King Juan Carlos is rapidly becoming the motorbiking King. The Spaniard has developed a dangerous weakness for white-knuckle rides on classic British motorbikes and is considering a dash round the notorious Isle of Man TT course. The King has been dropping hints that he would love a spin on a Manx Norton, the legendary machines which growled to triumph in the 1950s. This has been discreetly conveyed to Allan Robinson, the secretary of the TT Riders Association. He has responded by sending an invitation to Madrid, suggesting that the King ride in a "lap of honour" before next year's Isle of Man race. In 90 years, the race has claimed 170 victims.

"I'm not surprised the King admires the Manx Norton," puffs a proud Mr Robinson. "For anyone who was young in the 1950s, it was *the* bike."

The King has acquired a private collection of classic bikes and presents the trophies at the Spanish Grand Prix, but has never graced the handlebars of a Norton. But fear not — Summerfield Engineering, a little firm in Derbyshire, will supply a 500cc machine. "We are delighted to offer a bike fit for a king," splutters my man in the goggles, one Mike Summerfield.

So will the monarch be flying around the 37-mile circuit? "This is something," purrs a delectable señora in the Spanish Royal Household, "that His Majesty is considering personally."

"*Sorry, I didn't recognise you without your socks.*"

THE TIMES DIARY

Brawn loser

RECENTLY I became acquainted with Ian Robertson, the former Scottish rugger player and commentator. By happy chance he coached the Prime Minister through his Oxford entrance exams while a teacher at Fettes.

"Tony Blair was a real smart****," he tells me. "Tragically I taught him to read and write, but that was after his A levels. He was very bright and probably one of the best students I ever had, but he only got into Oxford." Robertson is a Cambridge man. "Tony was a very sharp operator but most certainly not a sportman. He was made to play but he didn't make it into any of the teams."

OLD TIMES
"Our sovereignty doesn't belong to the Government to give away." (Frederick Forsyth, who once addressed an anti-Euro rally with the late Jimmy Goldsmith but now tells a group of Oxford students that he never had anything to do with the Referendum Party.)

● *REVENGE is in store for Tony Blair. The opening to the Commonwealth shindig with its bongo drums and new Labour optimism was toe-curling (one poem chanted by teenage girls was so banal, it could have been penned by the Poet Laureate). At least Alastair Campbell insisted that bagpipes should still be played. But Edinburgh Castle is not satisfied: pipers plan to play the* Highland Laddie, *a jibe at Mr Blair, who has shown scant enthusiasm for Scotland since Fettes.*

Lean time

ONE OF Yorkshire's grandest stately homes may be reduced to a pile of 15th-century rubble: the walls of Ripley Castle, home to Sir Thomas Ingilby, are tilting so wildly that the place might fall down.

Sir Thomas, who inherited the pad for his 18th birthday, is clearly nervous. "One wing was built without foundations and the floors are collapsing as the walls lean 11in from vertical," he says.

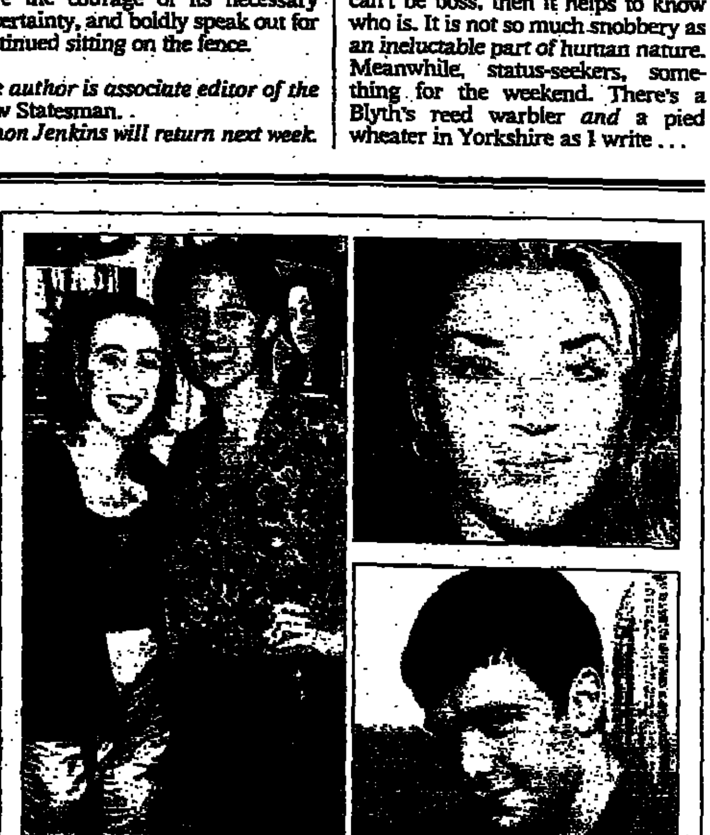
Rather than be turfed out, Ingilby hopes to raise £750,000 with help from that social security office to the aristocracy, English Heritage. He should avoid dossing down in the stable-block: it is being held up with scaffolding.

● *THIS regime is beastly to information officers. The latest victim is Graham Blakeway, of the Ministry of Agriculture. Two days after a "free and frank" chat over his role, Blakeway was rushed to hospital with suspected angina. Happily he is now recovered. "Graham was already under stress. He's had BSE for over a year," I am told. Wrestling with the agricultural effects rather than the disease, I trust.*

Cut and blow

BRUCE Willis has had trouble getting his hair cut. To test the ease with which normal sorts can get into fashionable joints, *Watchdog* phoned Nicky Clarke, crimper to Cherie Booth and other regal types. Asking for a quick snip, he was told the master groomer was booked until the new year. Calling again as "Bruce Willis" (who is an American actor), he was told he could be done that day. When Mr Willis — a pig farmer from Swindon — turned up for his trim, he strangely found the stylist "too busy".

NEW TIMES
The Royal Naval Museum in Portsmouth is moving into the booze business in time for Christmas. But rather than rum, it will sell a range of French wines. Imbibers will be able to choose from Nelson's Claret or Trafalgar Burgundy. It all sounds rather bloodthirsty.



Game on: Kate Alderton and Nina Conti; Tamara and Jack

PARTY TIME
HAMPSTEAD was playing its favourite game: the generation game. A play there brought together Kate Alderton, the daughter of John Alderton and Pauline Collins, and Nina Conti, the daughter of Tom Conti: Ms Collins's screen lover in *Shirley Valentine*. Kate was watched admiringly by her "old friend" Jack Davenport (Miles in *This Life*). Also present was, er, Tamara Beckwith. All raved about *Boys' Life*, *naturellement*. But Jack, grumbling that he not been told if there would be a new series of *This Life*, seemed reluctant to meet Ms Beckwith. "What would I say to her?" he implored. This is a question that has stumped many fine brains.

JASPER GERARD

هكذا من الأصل

THE BILL FOR RIGHTS

Change is justified only if British rights are better protected

The Human Rights Bill introduced yesterday by the Government not only redeems a manifesto commitment; it is the fruit of long political and legal debate. The incorporation of the 1951 European Convention on Human Rights into British law has support from principled advocates across the political spectrum. They argue that this convention, drawn up after the war with the aim of ensuring that no European country would again violate basic human rights as Nazi Germany had done, embodies the finest in this country's legal traditions. Britain took the lead in drafting it and was its first signatory. But Britain, almost alone of the signatories, has not folded this convention into the body of domestic law.

That means that plaintiffs must take their cases to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, as 50 have successfully done since 1966. This is an expensive and long drawn out process. This Bill would enable Britons to seek redress under the convention in the courts of this country.

Equally principled have been the reservations expressed. They begin with the general terms in which this short convention defines the human rights it protects and, still more importantly, the sweeping terms — such as "national security . . . the prevention of disorder . . . or health or morals" — in which restrictions on the exercise of these rights are framed. As the Government's White Paper says, interpretations of the convention have evolved down the years to reflect "changing social attitudes". In Britain, framing laws to protect rights in the light of social evolution has always been a matter for Parliament. That process, whatever its detractors, has been a democratic guarantor of liberty.

However true it may be that the convention reflects the spirit of Magna Carta, the fact remains that such generality is at odds with the detailed, case law-based practices of British justice. The justification for incorporation could only be that it enlarged the freedoms of the citizen under the law. But some articles in the convention could be interpreted in such a way as to restrict them instead. The question, who decides, is therefore of paramount importance.

Hence the second, equally serious reservation, which is that incorporation could erode divisions established down the centuries between Parliament's legislative supremacy and the strictly interpretative function of the judiciary. This would certainly have been the case had the Government opted for a "strong" form of incorporation, empowering judges to exercise the doctrine of "implied repeal" and strike down any laws they found to be incompatible with the convention. In the most radical constitutional upheaval since the 1689 Bill of Rights, judges would have found themselves in a position, with which most would feel profoundly uncomfortable, of dictating to Parliament.

With the important exception of secondary legislation, the Bill presented by Jack Straw has not ventured down this path. Ministers will be required to show that all new legislation complies with the convention. But in the case of existing laws, the powers of the courts will be limited to drawing the attention of Parliament to any "incompatibility" with the convention. The Government would then move to change the law — as it already does if it loses a case at Strasbourg. But until it did, the legislation would remain in force.

That reduces the risks of clashes between the courts and Parliament; but does not eliminate them because in other respects, this Bill is less cautious. All public authorities will be legally bound to comply with the convention. If a court judges that they have done so, it may quash their decisions — even if they are otherwise lawful.

Still more disturbing is the proposed "fast track" for changing laws, following an adverse declaration by the courts. The Government proposes to do this under 90-minute orders. Such order can be rejected by Parliament, but scarcely scrutinised or amended with due care. Worse still, in "particularly urgent" cases, the order would take immediate effect, although it would expire after a short period if not approved by both Houses. Some might see this as only a step short of government by decree, hugely augmenting executive power at the expense of the legislature. The Government should give this deeper thought. The convention is noble in ambition and sweeping in scope. But this Bill could shift the balance between Parliament and the courts, irreversibly and in ways that may not be evident for some years.

FIRST LADY, SECOND LOOK

Mrs Clinton may leave a legacy for Robert Dole

Farewell then Lady Macbeth. Hello, Mother Teresa. Hillary Clinton will celebrate her 50th birthday with a glittering gala in Chicago tomorrow. Last week she took centre stage at a White House conference on childcare issues. Next week she will visit Northern Ireland and then travel to Chequers for a seminar on health and welfare policy hosted by Tony Blair. The First Lady is determined to reposition herself, for the remainder of her time in Washington, as the kinder, gentler Mrs Clinton.

That she should seek an alternative image is entirely understandable. In truth, Mrs Clinton holds one of the most impossible posts in American politics. The notion of the First Lady has no formal status. Despite that, it has considerable standing. In this century, the position was personified by Eleanor Roosevelt. Mrs Clinton's courting of controversy therefore puts her in excellent company. But she was, at one point, the most disliked First Lady on record.

She brought many of those problems on herself. The idea of a "co-presidency" was an affront to American democracy. The President's decision to put his wife in charge of his healthcare proposals was a disaster for both of them. The shadow of Whitewater — and the apparent misuse of the late Vincent Foster's files — still hang over Mrs Clinton. She could yet face charges of obstructing justice. While she is stoutly defended American feminists, Mrs Clinton may well have done their cause more harm than good. She may come to be seen, more sympathetically, as a transitional figure. Most of her predecessors were not political figures. She has strong views on almost every issue, yet itwas assumed that, once she married a man almost addicted to election campaigns, she could not seek a political career herself.

One of the features of the last presidential contest was that Elizabeth Dole outshone Mrs Clinton. Mrs Dole, a former Cabinet member under Ronald Reagan and George Bush, would have been an exceptionally powerful adviser had her husband sat in the Oval Office. Mrs Clinton was apparently perplexed that her rival could be so political but strikingly popular. In truth there was no paradox. It was the very fact that Mrs Dole had openly sought power in her own right that made her respectable. Although a decade older than Mrs Clinton, Mrs Dole is, in many senses, the truly modern woman.

Washington is now awash with speculation that Mrs Dole might run for the White House herself in three years' time. Democratic strategists — in solemn mood — are almost as one in the belief that she would be by far the most difficult Republican to beat. It is a little early — with 1,110 days left — to assess her electoral prospects. It would, though, be the supreme irony if the person who benefited from the highly activist precedent set by Mrs Clinton were Robert Dole, as, er: First Lord of the United States?

ROUND THE READING ROOMS

The dome is a cathedral, but the library is the global bookshelf

The Round Reading Room of the British Library will close for the last time this evening after 140 years. As with the death of all such venerable institutions, there is room for sentiment. The room's mission statement was magnificently humane: to make available free of charge any book that has been published (at least in the English language). Its design was a cathedral of the book. Books lined its walls, the readers' desks formed the spokes of a wheel, the hub provided space for the catalogue, and over all soared the dome. Its history is extensive and eccentric.

If all the books read, written, researched and plagiarised there were stacked, they would fill several miles of shelf. And many of them might even be worth reading. Stories have been set in the Reading Room, by such as David Lodge, Malcolm Muggeridge and Max Beerbohm. The novels tend to be detective stories, not concerned with scholarship so much as with getting the body into the stacks in one of the keepers' trolleys.

Marx spent years writing *Das Kapital* there, and Lenin and Trotsky used it as their home from home before they returned home to blow up other men's homes. Bernard Shaw did most of his reading there. And Eric Partridge spent 50 years at desk K1, interrupted from his pioneering studies of slang only by such diversions as Wimbledon fortnight and the Second World War. Samuel *Erewhon* Butler was another daily presence who always sat in the same seat. Louis MacNeice wrote a poem to the Reading Room, with an extended simile about a beehive, "Honey and wax, the accumulation of years". And his honey and wax (and debris) comprise the greatest collection of 1,000 years of English literature.

But sentiment for the Reading Room should not sag into sentimentality. For it can sound like mourning for a plush Victorian restaurant, where one would be alarmed to look into the kitchen. The Reading Room even smells of cabbage, though the keepers in their blue uniforms were dressed more like prison warders than waiters. The central heating was oppressive, which was why impoverished intellectuals such as Gandhi came to roost there. And it could take days and sometimes months to get served.

The reading rooms in the new British Library will open their doors next month. As we report in the *Magazine*, they will provide modern facilities, a better menu and faster service. They will be open free to the general public, not just to the elite selected for a reader's ticket. And they will conserve the books instead of destroying them by constant shuttling around London. They are are a step on the road to the global bookshelf. And for those haunted by old ghosts, the Round Room will be preserved, with its blue seats, desks and reading lights, as a library related to the British Museum's collections. So it will always be an historic room of the extraordinary culture of the British book.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Lord Chancellor's legal aid reforms

From Mr Austin Mitchell, MP for Great Grimsby (Labour)

Sir, The proposal by Lord Irvine of Lairg to extend the use of conditional fees (report, October 18; leading article, October 23) may or more likely may not bring more control of legal aid and more justice for the middle classes.

It will deprive some lawyers of their excessive fees. Yet it is certainly not going to bring justice to the great majority of people in their disputes with the wealthy and powerful. By their very nature their cases initially don't look promising. The cards are always stacked against them. Who is going to fight them on conditional fees?

If legal aid goes, something has to replace it. Conditional fees are not enough. There ought to be a safety net, as Benedict Birnberg described in your Law pages (October 21). This would consist of salaried lawyers taking on civil and criminal litigation. Legal aid has a bad reputation because it *so vastly enriches lawyers who are* defending litigants whose poverty is often cosmetic.

What is required is a national network of law centres and public defenders based in every large community. This would be cheaper than legal aid, because the lawyers would be employed, not part of private practice, and they would be non-profitmaking. Conditional fees could accrue in them and they could take on private clients as well to provide genuine competition with private practice and keep it on its toes.

The legal aid gravy train has finally hit the buffers. As the wreckage is cleared away it must be replaced with a system that is equitable, efficient and accessible to all. It is time for us to put into practice the proposals by Lord Rushcliffe, 50 years on albeit, and enact a National Legal Service based on a right to representation.

Yours faithfully,
AUSTIN MITCHELL
(Chair, Campaign for a National Legal Service),
House of Commons.
October 23.

From Mr Michael Gould

Sir, As you rightly say in your leading article today, conditional fees have so far largely been confined to personal injury cases, in which it is usually relatively easy to assess the risk involved.

So long as the plaintiff can prove any degree of contributory fault by another party then he will recover some damages and usually be awarded most, if not all, of his costs against that other party. The other party will usually also be insured, making recovery of sums awarded straightforward. Where such factors are not present, such as in insolvency work, the use of conditional fees although possible has been minimal.

Recent research has indicated increasing use of this system in personal injury cases, including many in which legal aid would not have been available; but those cases might well have been taken on by solicitors without conditional fees, in the expectation of *success and at the risk of losing* and having to seek to recover costs from a resentful client.

Without further research the suspicion must linger that the main effect so far of conditional fees is to allow some personal injury lawyers to recover higher fees at the expense of clients. To justify an extension of these agreements and withdraw legal aid from some areas of work would at best be premature and at worst dishonest.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL GOULD
(Senior lecturer),
Staffordshire University,
Law School,
Leek Road,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.
October 23.

From the Director of the National Consumer Council

Sir, The legal aid system needs reform, but it does provide access to justice for many people who are unable to afford litigation. To scrap a large part of it in favour of "no win, no fee" agreements is potentially dangerous.

We know of no testing whatsoever of the viability of "no win, no fee" agreements from the consumer's perspective. No evidence is available on how well clients understand them or how satisfactory they have proved in practice. Nor do we know whether clients with good cases have been refused help by over-cautious solicitors. It is therefore extremely disconcerting that the Lord Chancellor proposes to *give conditional fees such a key role in* our legal system at this stage.

In seizing on this desperate measure, the Lord Chancellor appears to have disregarded the potential of Lord Woolf's reforms of civil justice to bring down the costs of legal aid. There is a real danger that the new proposals *will deny help to the most vulnerable* without being a panacea for the better-off.

Yours sincerely,
RUTH EVANS,
Director,
National Consumer Council,
20 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1.
October 21.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Holbein's trick skull under the lens

From Mr S. C. Gardiner

Sir, The work of an art restorer, his science, his skill, his insight, is totally sublimated to that of the artist whose work he is restoring.

The problem for the viewer of older artwork (all of which has had to undergo some restoration) is how restoration is to be judged; in what way does restoration enlighten us in the *present time? Or, is our perception of* Holbein's *The Ambassadors* (report, October 20) to be renovated by the particular view taken by an individual restorer? Certainly not.

Martin Wyld's work on the painting was to reveal as much of Holbein's original paintwork that was extant at the time of restoration and to remove all latterly-added material which overlaid it. He confined his restoration (inpainting) to the areas where the original paint had been lost (ie, flaked off the surface or totally removed in previous cleanings). With modern scientific investigative techniques it is quite possible to determine origi*nal paint from later overpainting.*

Thus it becomes possible for the gallery viewer to see *more* Holbein, and *less* of the 18th and 19th-century accretions, which some people have come to know and love. We can now decide for ourselves from what perspective to view that skull.

Yours faithfully,
S. C. GARDINER
(Art restorer),
23 Hampton Road,
Worcester Park, Surrey.
October 21.

From Professor R. A. Weale

Sir, Your informative report on the problem of the skull did not refer to the theory prevalent years ago, according to which the painting was destined to be placed near the top of a staircase. Consequently those ascending the stairs would see and perceive the skull before they could read the rest of the canvas.

That interpretation appears to conflict with your advice, namely that the skull should be viewed from the top right-hand corner of the detail you published: it can also be viewed — and recognised — when viewed from the *bottom left*.

The notion supported by Mr Michael Daley that the skull should be viewed through a glass cylinder is interesting but seems a little farfetched. I have looked at both the cleaned and the unrestored versions in your article through a cylindrical piece of perspex 2.5 cm in diameter. In either case the skull is to be seen: what is significant, however, is that the glass rod has to be held at an appreciable angle from the vertical.

It is unlikely that Holbein would have painted this trick to amuse an audience unconversant with the principles of classical optics. It is more *probable that the optician, Edgar R.* Samuel, who discovered the phenomenon would have realised that anamorphic images are distended in one direction, and that this can be compensated with a cylindrical lens.

Yours very truly,
ROBERT WEALE,
King's College London,
Cornwall House, Waterloo Road, SE1.
October, 21.

From Mr Edgar R. Samuel

Sir, I am delighted that Mr Michael Daley has supported my hypothesis, which I explained in the 1963 *Burlington Magazine*, that Holbein designed the anamorphic skull in *The Ambassadors* to be viewed from in front of the painting through a negative cylindrical lens (of between -25 and -30 dioptres): in other words through the sides of a thick glass tube, probably a flower vase.

Unfortunately I cannot support his view that the restoration of the painting has damaged it. I have viewed the painting since it was restored and the image through a transparent tube is just as good as before the restoration. The painting is now cleaner and clearer than ever. I think that the National Gallery restorers did a great job.

Yours sincerely,
EDGAR R. SAMUEL,
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1.
October 20.

Changing childbirth

From Baroness Cumberlege

Sir, Nigella Lawson's experience of childbirth under the "one-to-one" scheme which followed the 1993 government report, *Changing Childbirth*, is marvellous (article, October 21).

Thousands of mothers are experiencing similar midwife-led care, involving the same midwife through pregnancy, birth and aftercare, but some of the units involved are under threat of closure. The reason is, of course, money: the production line is perceived to be cheaper than individual care. In fact the difference in cost is far from proven. What is expensive is the transition period from one system to another when both may, for a short while, be operating in parallel.

As a junior Health Minister I took the very unusual decision to chair the committee which produced *Changing Childbirth* and to use my influence to implement its recommendations. I was and still am convinced that giving women the opportunity to choose how their baby is born has a profound effect both upon the child's development and family life. If birth is a "happy event" mother and child thrive from the start. If it is a traumatic experience the mother, and probably the child, have to overcome the repercussions of that trauma. Government reports cannot guarantee an easy birth, but *they can maximise the chance of* a "happy event".

I am well aware that short-term funding crises are also traumatic for those allocating resources, but investing in birth has a proven return in better health for life. The expert committee which produced *Changing Childbirth* was non party-political and the report gained cross-party support. I do not think it is too much to ask that women be given choice and respect in return for producing and nurturing the next generation.

Yours sincerely,
JULIA CUMBERLEGE
(Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health, 1992-97),
House of Lords.
October 21.

Bedrock of art

From Sir Michael Maxwell

Sir, I have recently been asked, and given consent, for some boulders to be removed from the shoreline at Port William. These boulders, weighing up to one ton, are to be moved by boat or by helicopter and then fired in a kiln for a considerable period of time.

The result will be displayed in the new Museum of Scotland, which will open in Edinburgh next year. Part of the display will be indoors and will show the effect of heat on rock, and part will be outside to show the effect of water on heated rock. This is intended to be thought-provoking.

I am not familiar with the artist or his work but can only admire his achievement in obtaining funding for such a project, especially as Scotland and indeed Edinburgh is not particularly short on rock, volcanic or otherwise, and water.

Perhaps the whole system of how such projects are commissioned and if the public are getting value for money might be reviewed. Dead sheep are cheaper to process and move.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MAXWELL,
Monreith House,
Port William, Galloway.
October 21.

Gypsies from Slovakia

From the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic

Sir, I write to challenge two statements in your report, "Romany refugees head for Britain after Canada closes the door" (October 20; letter, October 22). First you write: "Curfews have been imposed in Slovak villages". There were attempts by some local authorities to impose curfews as long ago as 1993 but, under strong pressure from the national Government and general public, these were lifted in a couple of weeks, so there are no curfews in Slovak villages now.

You go on: ". . . the Slovak Government has cut child benefit to Romanies . . .". There have been no such cuts. Slovak law guarantees better benefits for families with more children and Romanies in Slovakia enjoy the same rights as other citizens. Moreover, in 1991 Romanies were granted a status of national minority and their rights are guaranteed by the Slovak Constitution and other laws in compliance with generally valid international standards.

Sincerely yours,
IGOR SLOBODNIK,
Embassy of the Slovak Republic,
25 Kensington Palace Gardens, W8.
October 22.

Wheels under fire

From Mr S. C. Moss

Sir, I was rather amused by your report, "Housewife cycles into a speed trap at 43mph" (October 16), but while congratulating Mrs Ros Jones on her obvious improvement in fitness feel it does raise one or two questions.

That she apparently achieved the feat on a road described by the police as "not hilly at all", against the background of the entire ride in which she covered just seven miles in 45 minutes (averaging less than 10mph), is nothing short of amazing. As a first-category racing cyclist, I myself would consider a ride of 43mph noteworthy on my lightweight racer, let alone a mountain bike.

PC Alan Rowlands may well point to "high" gearing on the mountain bike, but such gearing still requires "high" human effort to produce anything like 40mph on the flat to overcome wind resistance: the current women's world record over 200 metres is 10.8 seconds, just under 42mph.

Is it just possible that the police speed radar in fact picked up another vehicle? Cyclists, after all, are not the biggest of targets. Has the radar gun actually been tested on cyclists?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN C. MOSS,
58 Elmhurst Road,
West Moors, Ferndown, Dorset.

Weekend Money letters, page 61

Choice of 'saints' for Abbey niches

From Mrs Joanna Malins

Sir, I hope that future generations will find it as unacceptable as I do now, that of the ten saints and martyrs to be commemorated at Westminster Abbey (report, October 18), none is — nor, thanks to 1997 political correctness could be — English.

Following his public beheading by the Japanese in the Gilbert Islands, *The Mission Chronicle* wrote of the Reverend Alfred Sadd, "Missing, believed immortal". Obviously not in Westminster Abbey.

Yours faithfully,
JOANNA MALINS,
3 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey.
October 19.

From Mr Hazhir Teimourian

Sir, Your report today that a committee at Westminster Abbey has decided to change the building's appearance after 800 years by installing the statues of ten modern people over the Great West Door is almost incredible.

Any such change to a Grade II listed building in the remotest part of the country would cause opposition. Yet we are expected to remain silent in the face of an act of historic vandalism which would, in the process, also destroy the elegant simplicity of the space above that famous door.

No wonder that no British figure has been chosen to be among the commemorated "saints". The committee obviously seeks protection behind the new taboo of multiculturalism.

Yours sincerely,
H. TEIMOURIAN,
107 Pall Mall, SW1.
October 18.

From the Chaplain of St John's School, Leatherhead

Sir, The Archdeacon of York appropriately puts forward one of the British martyrs of the 20th century who *should have featured in Westminster* Abbey's niches.

Father Vivian Redlich (1905-42) remains an inspiration to pupils of his former school, where a chapel is dedicated to his memory and which portrays his missionary work in Papua New Guinea and his execution on Buna Beach in August 1942.

As news of his death reached his friends, Redlich was described as "the missionary we will never forget". Let us hope that, at the next opportunity to remember the saints of our own time, we do not forget this very British priest and martyr who was an inspiration to all who knew him.

Yours faithfully,
MATTHEW LAWSON
(Chaplain), St John's School,
Leatherhead, Surrey.
October 20.

From Rabbi Rachel Montagu

Sir, Does the Church of England really propose to erect a statue at Westminster Abbey to Father Maximilian Kolbe, the Polish priest who died in Auschwitz? His martyr's death does not outweigh his prewar identification with an anti-Semitic journal. I have several times seen it falsely suggested that he died taking a Jew's place in the gas chamber — in fact he replaced another Christian.

It is hard to comprehend why the Church of England should honour this man at the expense of future good relations with the Jewish community, who will be horrified, and rightly so, at this insensitive plan.

Yours faithfully,
RACHEL MONTAGU,
2 Exeter Road, NW2.

From Mr Graham Weeks

Sir, The choice of modern martyrs for Westminster Abbey is indeed ques*tionable. Some are well known and* worthy, others little known. One is of dubious Christian character and questionably martyred for Christianity, namely Martin Luther King.

I believe that we should have had some contemporary British martyrs, such as Eric Liddell or missionaries killed in the Congo uprising.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM WEEKS,
71 Lee Road, Greenford, Middlesex.
weeks-g@dircon.co.uk
October 18.

Favourite firsts

From Professor Emeritus Isabel de Madariaga, FBA

Sir, Surely one of the most splendid first lines in literature (letters, October 18) is:

> "Take my camel, dear," said my aunt Dot, as she climbed down from this animal on her return from High Mass.

(Rose Macaulay, *The Towers of Trebizond*, 1956).

Yours truly,
ISABEL de MADARIAGA,
25 Southwood Lawn Road, N6.
imad@btinternet.com

From Mr Neville Moray

Sir, In the white heat of competition, how could one overlook the opening of Dan Mannix's *Memoirs of a Sword-Swallower* (1951):

> I probably never would have become America's leading fire-eater if Flamo the Great hadn't happened to explode that night in front of Krinko's Great Combined Carnival Side Shows.

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE MORAY,
10a Hampstead Hill Gardens, NW3.
October 21.

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COURT CIRCULAR

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE
October 24: The Crown Prince of Tonga was received by The Queen this morning.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh later gave a Reception at the Palace of Holyroodhouse for representatives of the media covering the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

The Princess Royal was present.

Afterwards Dr the Hon Kenny Anthony (Prime Minister of St Lucia) and the Hon Mr Inder Kumar Gujral (Prime Minister of the Republic of India) were received by Her Majesty.

The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh and The Prince of Wales, this afternoon opened the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at the Edinburgh Conference Centre.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a Dinner this evening for Commonwealth Heads of Government at which Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, The Prince of Wales, The Princess Royal and Captain Timothy Laurence RN were present.

The following were invited: The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the Prime Minister of Australia and Mrs Howard, the Prime Minister of the Bahamas and Mrs Ingraham, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and Sheikh Rehana, the Prime Minister of Barbados and Mrs Arthur, the Prime Minister of Belize, The President of Botswana and Lady Masire, The Sultan of Brunei Darussalam, the Prime Minister of Cameroon, the Prime Minister of Canada and Mrs Chrétien, The President of Cyprus and Mrs Clerides, the Prime Minister of Dominica, the Prime Minister of Fiji and Mrs Rabuka, The President of the Gambia and Mrs Tuti Faal-Jammeh, The President of Ghana and Mrs Rawlings, the Prime Minister of Grenada and Mrs Mitchell, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana, the Prime Minister of India and Mrs Gujral, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-Operation of Kenya, The President of Kiribati and Madame Keina Tito, the Deputy Prime Minister of Lesotho, The President of the Republic of Malawi and Madame Muluzi, the Prime Minister of Malaysia and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, The President of the Republic of Maldives, the Prime Minister of Malta, the Prime Minister of Mauritius and Mrs Ramgoolam, The President of Mozambique and Mrs Chissano, The President of Namibia and Mrs Nujoma, the Prime Minister of New Zealand and Mrs Bolger, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Begum Kulsoom Nawaz, the Deputy Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea and Mrs Haiveta, the Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis, the Prime Minister of St Lucia, the Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines and Miss Louise Mitchell, the Minister of Education of Samoa, the Vice President of the Republic of Seychelles and Mrs Michel, The President of Sierra Leone and Mrs Kabbah, the Prime Minister of Singapore, the Deputy Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, The President of the Republic of South Africa and Mrs Graca Machel, The President of Sri Lanka, The King of Swaziland and The Inkhosikati, The President of Tanzania and Mrs Mkapa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence of Tonga, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago and Mrs Panday, The President of Uganda and Mrs Museveni, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Mrs Blair, the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, the Vice President of Zambia, The President of Zimbabwe and Mrs Mugabe, and the Commonwealth Secretary-General and Mrs Anyaoku.

Mrs Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga (President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka), presented to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness Golden Wedding gifts on behalf of the Commonwealth Heads of Government.

The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon attended a Reception to promote the Army Cadet Force Association in Scotland at the Army Headquarters Scotland, Craigiehall, South Queensferry, West Lothian.

October 24: the Duke of York, Trustee, this evening attended a Dinner given by the Trustees of Lakefield College School at the Granite Club, Toronto, Canada.

October 24: The Prince Edward arrived at Cardiff Railway Station this afternoon and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan (Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards RNR).

His Royal Highness, Trustee, this evening held a Reception, followed by a Dinner, for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Wales on board HMY Britannia, Queen Alexandra Dock, Cardiff.

October 24: The Princess Royal this afternoon opened the Commonwealth Exhibitions in the City Art Centre, Market Street, Edinburgh, and was received by Mr James Hastie (Deputy Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh).

Her Royal Highness, Visitor, afterwards attended a Reception in the grounds of St Mary's Cathedral Workshop Project, Manor Place, Edinburgh.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
October 24: The Prince of Wales, Patron, this afternoon took part in a tree planting ceremony in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, to mark the Seventy Fifth Anniversary of the International Tree Foundation.

His Royal Highness later visited the Commonwealth Centre, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, toured displays by Commonwealth Non-Governmental Organisations and joined the final session of the Commonwealth Youth Forum.

YORK HOUSE
October 24: The Duke of Kent, Vice Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this afternoon called upon The President of the Republic of Korea (Mr Kim Young-sam) and later called upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr Yoo Chong-ha) in Seoul, Korea.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, Aldeburgh Festival Anniversary Appeal, this evening attended a Concert as part of the Aldeburgh October Britten Festival at Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Aldeburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk (the Lord Belstead).

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
October 24: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this afternoon arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, on completion of the visit to the United States of America.

Royal engagements

TODAY: The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Commonwealth Centre Exhibition of Non-Governmental Organisations in the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh at 9.45.

Prince Edward, trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will visit the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation at 9.45; will open the all-weather hockey pitch at Whitchurch High School, Cardiff, at 11.00; will visit HM Prison Prescoed, Usk, Gwent, at 12.30; as trustee will visit Haberdashers Monmouth School for Girls, Monmouth 2.05; will visit Monmouth School at 3.05; and as trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Wales, will attend a reception and Dinner on board HMY Britannia, Queen Alexandra Dock, Cardiff at 6.30.

The Princess Royal, Commandant in Chief, Women's Transport Service (FANY) will attend the 90th anniversary service of thanksgiving and commemoration, the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, at 3.00; and will attend the 90th anniversary reunion cocktail party at the Royal Hospital Chelsea at 6.30.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron, Aldeburgh Festival Anniversary Appeal, will attend the Aldeburgh October Britten Festival, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, at 6.50.

TOMORROW: The Prince of Wales, president, The Prince's Trust, will attend a Commonwealth in Concert evening at the Playhouse Theatre, Edinburgh at 7.15.

Luncheon

Tallow Chandlers' Company
Mr J.B.N. Kurkjian, Master of the Tallow Chandlers' Company, presented the company's medals and awards to young employees in the Federation of Fats, Oils and Seeds Association, the Duncan Knight Scholarship to Miss C. Balsa and the Theatre Lighting Award to Miss N. Kanai at a luncheon held yesterday at Tallow Chandlers' Hall.

Reception

Friends of the Diocese in Europe
The Right Rev J.W. Hind, Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, was the celebrant at a Mass held yesterday at St Michael's, Cornhill. The Bishop of Basingstoke gave an address. The Friends of the Diocese in Europe gave a reception afterwards at Drapers' Hall.

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Judith Seddon, of Penn, Buckinghamshire, and Damian Cocking, of Kington Magna, Dorset, who have recently announced their engagement

Memorial service

Dr Louis Cohen
A celebration of the life and work of Dr Louis Cohen, physicist and former Executive Secretary of the Institute of Physics, was held yesterday at the institute.

Miss Jessica Cohen (daughter) read from Through the Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll. Sir Brian Pippard, FRS, read from the works of Charles Darwin, Mr John Lewis from the works of Winston Churchill and Sir John Mason from the works of Richard Strauss. Dr Cohen's contributions to physics were recalled by Professor Roland Dobbs, Professor Derek Martin, Mr Gero Thomas and Dr Alun Jones. Music was played by a string quartet from the Royal Academy of Music. Among others present were:

Mrs Cohen (widow), Mr Jonathan Cohen (son) and Dr Bareen Shah, Mr Richard Boon and Miss Deborah Cohen (son-in-law and daughter).

Lord and Lady Flowers, Dr Bas Pease, Professor Roger Blin-Stoyle, Dr Clive Foxell and Sir Arnold Wolfendale (past presidents of the Institute), Dr Brian Manley (president), Professor Ian Butterworth, Professor John Crangle, Professor Cyril Hogarth, Dr Ronald Keay, Dr Hymie Rose and past and present council members and staff of the Institute.

Service dinners

HMS President RNR, London
The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs attended the annual Trafalgar dinner held onboard HMS President last night. The toast to the Immortal Memory was proposed by Admiral Sir Peter Abbott, Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff. The Lord Mayor and the Bishop of Sodor and Man also spoke. The guests were received by Commander R.G. Avis, Commanding Officer, and Lieutenant-Commander I.M. Dunkley, Mess President, was in the chair. Among others present were:

Captain A H Spratt-Kerswill (HMS President Retired Officers' Association), the Prime Warden of the Shipwrights' Company, Masters of the Coopers' Company and the Company of Master Mariners, members of the Wardroom Mess and representatives of the Fishmongers' Company.

Cambridge University Royal Naval Unit
The Lord-Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire attended a Trafalgar Night Dinner of the Cambridge University Royal Naval Unit held last night at Peterhouse, Cambridge. Lieutenant-Commander R.M. Thornborough presided. Commodore N.C.F. Guild, Director, Combat Systems and Equipment, was the guest of honour and Dr M.E. Richardson, Director of Continuing Education to Cambridge University, was the principal academic guest. Lieutenant Commander M.D. Mackenzie received the guests who included Brigadier S. Hill, Director of Naval Recruiting, and Commodore C.M.J. Carson.

The King's Troop RHA
Field Marshal Lord Vincent of Coleshill, Master Gunner, St James's Park, was the senior guest at an officers' dinner held last night at St John's Wood Barracks to mark the 50th anniversary of The King's Troop RHA.

Dinners

Guild of Freemen of the City of London
Mr Tony Baldry, MP, entertained members of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London and their guests at dinner last night at the House of Commons. Sir Anthony Grant, Master, also spoke.

Forty Club
Mr Jack Bailey, President of the Forty Club, presented the Henry Grierson Trophy to Giles Haywood, Captain of Cricket at Lancing College, at the annual dinner of the club held last night at the London Hilton on Park Lane. Mr Brian Bolus, the President of MCC, the Provost Emeritus of Blackburn and Professor David Purdie of Hull Royal Infirmary were the speakers.

Anniversaries

TODAY: BIRTHS: Johann Strauss the Younger, composer of The Blue Danube, Vienna, 1825; Georges Bizet, composer, Paris, 1838; Pablo Picasso, painter, Malaga, Spain, 1881.

DEATHS: Stephen, King of England, reigned 1135-54, Dover, 1154; Geoffrey Chaucer, poet, London, 1400; Sir Charles Hallé, pianist and conductor, Manchester, 1895; Mary McCarthy, novelist, New York, 1989.

The English Army defeated the French at the Battle of Agincourt, 1415.

The Charge of the Light Brigade took place at Balaclava, 1854.

TOMORROW: BIRTHS: Domenico Scarlatti, harpsichordist and composer, Naples, 1685; Mahalia Jackson, gospel singer, New Orleans, 1911.

DEATHS: Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons 871-99, London, 899; William Hogarth, painter and engraver, London, 1764; Alma Cogan, singer, 1966.

The gunfight at the OK Corral took place at Tombstone, Arizona, 1881.

The Territorial Army was founded by Richard Haldane, Secretary of State for War, 1907.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.A. Clark
and Miss S.F. Chilcott
The engagement is announced between Donald, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Clark, of Bentworth, Hampshire, and Carmel, Indiana, USA, and Sian, elder daughter of the late Mr Arthur Chilcott and of Dr Ruth Chilcott, of Keston, Kent.

Dr P.J. Conaghan
and Miss E.T. Errington
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mrs H. Conaghan and the late Mr W. Conaghan, of Corby, Northamptonshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. Errington, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Mr I.J. Hiscock
and Miss S.C. Baird
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs Barry Hiscock, of Broadstone, Dorset, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Baird, of Stoke Bishop, Bristol.

Mr S.J. Kemp
and Miss E.K. Hipwell
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Kemp, of Cavendish, Suffolk, and Emma Kate, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Hipwell, of Bradfield St Clare, Suffolk.

Mr N.J. Musk
and Miss J.K. Wood
The engagement is announced between Neil, son of Mr and Mrs William Musk, of St Neots, Cambridgeshire, and Joanna, younger daughter of Mr David Wood, of Milton Ernest, Bedford, and of Mrs Ann Wood, of Great Shelford, Cambridge.

Dr J.C.R. Ward
and Miss O.C. Dent
The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs Rodney Ward, of Silverdale, Carnforth, Lancashire, and Olivia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Dent, of Wooldale, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire.

Mr M.C. Jealous
and Miss R.M. Gunston
The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Mr and Mrs A.W. Jealous, of St Annes-on-Sea, Fylde, and Rosa, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs D.B. Gunston, of Singapore.

Mr S. Oakland
and Miss A. Heighway
The engagement is announced between Simon Oakland, of London, and Amanda, youngest daughter of Mrs Anne-Marie Heighway, of Bray.

Mr O.C. Rose
and Dr J.R. McCabe
The engagement is announced between Owen, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Rose, of Great Waldingfield, Suffolk, and Jennie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy McCabe, of Staplehurst, Kent.

Mr M.D. Sapte
and Señorita E. Sancho Leon
The engagement is announced between Matthew, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Sapte, of Watford, Hertfordshire, and Elena, daughter of Don Rafael Sancho Candela and Doña Consuelo Leon Gonzalez, of Madrid, Spain.

Mr J.W. Woods
and Miss G.B. Pocock
The engagement is announced between John (Bill), son of the late Major Huia Woods and of Mrs Jean Woods, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, and Georgina, daughter of Mr M.D. Pocock, of Sweden, and Mrs Elizabeth Ogilvie, of Lockton, North Yorkshire.

Marriage

Mr N. Dunn
and Miss P. Cowan
The marriage took place on October 9, 1997, in Mauritius, between Neil, youngest son of Captain and Mrs David Dunn, of Hampshire, and Phillipa, elder daughter of Major Cowan, retd, of Germany, and Mrs Shaunine Cowan, of Barford St Martin.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY:
Sir Robert Andrew, civil servant, 69; Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Beverley, 62; Sir Martin Gilbert, historian, 61; Mr Michael Lawrence, former chief executive, the Stock Exchange, 54; Mr Peter McHugh, director of programmes, GMTV, 51; Sir David Mansel Lewis, Lord-Lieutenant of Dyfed, 70; Sir John Mayhew-Sanders, company chairman, 66; Mr Joe Mercer, racing manager, 63; Sir George Russell, former chairman, ITC, 62; Mr A.C. Smith, former chief executive, TCCB, 61; Mr Keith Taylor, chairman and chief executive, Esso UK, 59; Miss Galina Vishnevskaya, soprano, 71; Dame Gillian Wagner, former chairman, court of governors, Thomas Coram Foundation for children, 70; Miss Judith Weleminsky, independent management consultant, 47; Professor D.J. Wiseman, FBA, Emeritus Professor of Assyriology, London University, 79.

TOMORROW:
The Viscount of Arbuthnott, KT, 73; Mr John Arden, playwright, 67; Mr Ian Chapman, publisher, 72; Sir Percy Cradock, former diplomat, 74; Mr Paul Daneman, actor, 72; Professor W.A. Deer, FRS, former Vice-Chancellor, Cambridge University, 87; Mr Robert Edwards, former Editor, Sunday Mirror, 72; Professor R.A. Hinde, FRS, former Master, St John's College, Cambridge, 74; Mr Bob Hoskins, actor, 55; Mr Peter Joslin, Chief Constable, Warwickshire, 54; Professor A.M. Lucas, Principal, King's College London, 56; Sir Donald MacDougall, economist, 85; Viscount Malvern, 48; Mr Adam Mars-Jones, novelist and film critic, 43; Lord Molloy, 79; Mr György Pauk, violinist, 61; the Hon Tom Sackville, former MP, 47; Lord Scanlon, 84; Professor Sir Guenter Treitel, FBA, QC, Emeritus Professor of English Law, Oxford University, 69; Lord Wylie, 74.

ON THIS DAY

October 25, 1982

When this review appeared Dionne Warwick had already had a long and successful career. Today she is still wowing the crowds as the picture, taken this summer in Vienna, shows

ROCK

MEDLEY OF CLASSICS

Dionne Warwick
Apollo, Victoria

In prospect, Dionne Warwick's medley seems quite as daunting as the notorious All-England Summarize Proust Competition. How to encapsulate, within a manageable span, the highlights merely of her work with Burt Bacharach and Hal David, the composer and lyricist whose fertility provided her with an apprently endless series of classic songs during the Sixties? How to deal with her treatments of standards from other sources, and with the underregarded material stemming from the early Seventies, when, in terms of commercial success, she paused before achieving her second wind?

Many artists of pronounced longevity, from Duke Ellington to Diana Ross, have indulged in medleys as the only sensible method of satisfying an audience in which each member is avid to hear his own particular favourite. Practically all of them have ended up doing everyone a disservice. Miss Warwick's, on the other hand, is one of the great glories of contemporary concert-going.

The medley begins in 1962, with Bacharach and David's "Don't Make Me Over" and ends in 1975 with "Then Came You", devised for her by Bacharach's pre-eminent disciple, Thom Bell. In between are 19 further examples of the sophisticated techniques by which Bacharach and David wedded uptown soul music to the Broadway show song, plus "You've Lost That Loving Feeling", by Spector, Mann and Weil, and the theme from Valley of the Dolls, by Andre and Dory Previn.

The songs are pieced together by a series of brilliantly conceived jump-cuts, often editing into verses or straight to a chorus to expose the glowing heart of a melody or the point of one of David's deceptively homespun lyrics. Bacharach's felicitous imagination is preserved in the stabbing flugel-horn figures of "Walk On By" and the tympani punctuations of "Anyone Who Had a Heart."

The device of slowing down some ballads very slightly ("A House Is Not a Home", "Message to Michael") and of fractionally speeding up those based on flying Latin rhythms ("I Say A Little Prayer", "There's Always Something There to Remind Me") is far from cavalier: it cancels the possibility of a purely nostalgic response. The slighter pieces are presented as snippets; those more substantial are allowed to run. Never do we feel in receipt of short measure.

The medley presents a clear view of Miss Warwick's great range, from the rapt whisper of "Close to You" to the full-throated gospel shouting of "Make it Easy on Yourself", and in something like the key-change between "This Girl's In Love with You" and "April Fools", executed accappella, of her considerable musicianship. Her vocal talent is used to create an utterly distinctive emotional climate, as Bacharach must have realized all those years ago.

Inevitably, the medley also makes a commercial point by allowing her to devote the second half of the recital to recent material. On Thursday that included songs written for her by Isaac Hayes and Adrienne Anderson ("Déja Vu") and by the Bee Gees (the appealing new "Heartbreaker"), demonstrating the way composers continue to respond to her as well as her ability to bring dignity to what is, at least in comparison with the small miracles of Bacharach and David, no more than pop fluff.

She was not in immaculate voice on Thursday, but then she is not to be judged by the standards applied to other pop singers. Miss Warwick's fastidiousness, her notable interpretive powers and her droll personality allow her to rise gracefully above her chosen milieu.

Richard Williams

Dionne Warwick singing in Vienna this year

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Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. Friends, you must never speak ill of one another. James 4 : 10

BIRTHS

AFFLECK-TSUI - On 30th September in Hong Kong, to Ruby and Sean, twin sons, brothers for Jaz.

BALL - On 23rd October to Isabel (née Rooney) and James, a daughter, Sophia, a sister for Ben.

BROUGHTON - On 22nd October to Mary (née Bevan) and Tim, a son, Jethro Simon, a brother for Octavia and Bruno.

CARNEGIE - To Jocelyn and Susie (née Butler), a son, Finn Kenneth Redvers on Tuesday 21st October at Aberdeen, a brother to Merlin, Cecilia and Maximilian.

KEECH - On 22nd October, to Jillian (née Petty) and Andrew, a daughter, Elizabeth Alexandra, a sister for Louisa.

MARKES - On 21st October, at home, to Lucy and Charlie, a daughter, Ella Margaret Bluxland, a sister for Daisy, Rose and Gregory.

MURRAY - On October 16th to Dee and David, a son, William Wycliffe, a brother for Grace.

NEBERGALL - On October 22nd at The Portland Hospital, to Lynn and Brad, a daughter, Alissa, a sister for Jake and Ben.

O'CONNOR - On October 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Karen and John, a daughter, Madeline Helen Jemima, a sister for Constance.

BIRTHS

SCOTT - On 6th October to Neara (née Heaton) and Giles, a daughter, Sophia Joanna Neara.

SEDDON - On October 22nd to Emma (née Stephenson) and Clive, a son, Guy William Francis.

VERLANDER - On October 16th at The Portland Hospital to Robert and Andrea, a son, Dashiell Robert. Many thanks to Paul Armstrong and all staff at the hospital.

WHITING - On 14th October 1997, at Epsom General Hospital to Andrew and Anne-Marie (née Kirkham) a beautiful daughter, Ellen Susannah.

YOUNG - On October 9th, to Andrea and Mark, a son, Luke Peter James, a brother for Gus and Polly.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

WORLEDGE:WOOD - On 25th October 1947 at Priory Chapel, Maidstone, George to Joyce. Great is God's faithfulness.

DEATHS

BEACH - On October 23rd 1997, Kenneth Beach of Tonbridge. Dearly loved by his wife Jane and all the family. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund can be sent c/o J. Kempster and Sons, 2 & 4, Albion Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2PE. Tel: 01892 523131.

ALBERT - Harold Albert, Author and famed Royal Biographer under the name of Mrs Helen Cathcart. Died 20th October 1997 at Vine House Residential Home, Midhurst. Funeral Service at Chichester Crematorium on Friday 31st October 1997 at 1.00pm. Flowers if desired or donations to The Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o L. F. Lintott & Son, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex. GU29 9DG. Tel: 01730 813264.

BREMNER - Rosamond Mary (née Norbury), peacefully on October 13th 1997, in her 87th year. Gone to laugh with Mickey and F.P. Lovingly remembered by her daughter, Teresa, by her grandchildren, Mark, Anita and Chris and by family and friends. She touched many lives and will be missed. No service or flowers by request.

BRYERS - Brigadier R.H.C. (DICK) C.B.E. on October 22nd 1997, peacefully after a long illness aged 86 years. Beloved husband of both Marjorie for over 30 years and the late Phyllis. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Thorndon, Suffolk on Friday October 31st at 2.15pm followed by cremation at Bury St. Edmunds Crematorium (Risby) at 3.45pm. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to the Suffolk Branch of the Red Cross may be sent c/o Rackhams Funeral Service, Stanley Road, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 3RR.

COX - Ralph C.B.E. peacefully on October 22nd, 1997 aged 90. Devoted husband of the late Eva and much loved father and grandfather. Barrister at Law, Lincoln's Inn. Retired as Director of Contracts, Ministry of Defence 1966. Member of Reform and Phyllis Court Clubs and lately President of Reading Liberals. Private cremation followed by Thanksgiving Service at Bix Church, near Henley, Wednesday October 29th at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Sue Ryder Home, Nettlebed.

De St. CROIX - Lyda (née Soloviof Paez Pumar). Peacefully on 23rd October at St Thomas' Nursing Home, Basingstoke. Dearly beloved wife of John, mother of Roderick and John Anthony, grandmother of Oliver. Private cremation. Memorial Mass at the Church of our Lady of Grace and St. Edward, Chiswick on Monday 10th November at 12.30pm. Donations if desired to the Alzheimers Disease Society c/o Stowells Funeral Service, Worting Road, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 8TS. 01256 321281.

DRAKE - Edith aged 90 years of Green Lane, Churchdown, Gloucester, passed away on the 23rd October. Dearly loved wife of Doctor Drake. Enquiries c/o SC & BS Cocks tel: 01452 617892.

ELLIOTT - Marjorie Ruth died peacefully in her sleep on October 23rd 1997 aged 87. Darling Ma of Philippa and son-in-law David and beloved Gran of Andrew and Jonathan and Great Gran of Rosie, Amy, Stanley and Eliza. The funeral service will take place on October 29th at 2.30pm at Hendon Crematorium, Holders Hill Road, Mill Hill, London NW7. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to the RNLI c/o Kelly of Mill Hill, F/D, 9 The Parade, Holders Hill Road, Mill Hill, NW7 1NA. Tel: 0181 346 0174.

FORREST - Daphne suddenly and peacefully at her home on Monday 20th October, 1997. Loving wife of Archie and mother of Tim Fenton. Following private cremation a Thanksgiving Service will be held at St Mary's Church, Burnham Market on Monday 3rd November at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations if desired for British Red Cross c/o John Lincoln F/D 40 Greevegate, Hunstanton, Norfolk.

GIBSON - On 22nd October 1997, Constance, widow of Joseph, mother of Felicity, Stephen and Andrew. Funeral service and interment on Monday, October 27th at 11.00am at Barbon Church.

HAWKE - Julia Georgette. Missing presumed drowned in a tragic accident in the Galapagos Islands on October 12th. Beloved youngest daughter of Georgette and the late Theo Hawke and much loved sister of Sarah, Catherine, Nicola, Edward and Vanessa. Memorial Service at St Helen's Church, Tarporley, Cheshire 2.30pm on Saturday November 15th.

HEMANS - Peacefully on October 21st Margaret Estelle née Melsome. Funeral 11am November 5th at Salisbury Crematorium. No flowers. Donations to St Nicholas Church, Longparish.

KIRKE - John Nigel St. George peacefully in his sleep on October 21st aged 84. Beloved husband of Viola. Funeral Milland Church, 2pm Friday October 31st. No flowers please. Donations if desired to the RSPB c/o Funeral Services Petersfield Limited, 19 The Square, Petersfield, Hampshire. Tel: 01730 262711.

LAMBERT - Robert Guy Wilson C.B.E. Aged 76 on 4th October in Einsiedeln, Switzerland. Beloved father of Susan, Tom and Anna. Donations if desired to The Little Way Association, Sacred Heart House, 119 Cedars Road, London SW4 0PR

LIM - Cheng Kim. On 23rd October 1997 at Edenhall Marie Curie Centre. Dearly loved wife and mother of William Turnbull and their sons Alex and Jonathan.

MARSDEN - Prof. Philip OBE died on 4th October in Brasilia after a short illness. Philip devoted his working life to the development of Tropical Medicine. His passing is a tremendous loss and deeply felt by all his family and friends. He leaves behind his second wife Maria, his children Andrew and Vanessa, grandchildren and sister in America.

PIKE - Geoffrey D.S.C. Royal Marine Commandos (30AU) on 23rd October peacefully in Canterbury after a long illness. Much loved father of Judy, Jennifer and Charles. Service of Thanksgiving in The Crypt of Canterbury Cathedral at 2.30pm on Thursday 30th October. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Pilgrims Hospice c/o C.W. Lyons & Son Undertakers, 70 Military Road, Canterbury.

RHODES - Professor Rene George, Dept. of Engineering University of Warwick died suddenly at home on 21st October aged 81. Dear husband of Mary, loving father of Penny, Chris and Jeremy, grandfather of Samuel, Tomas and Matthew. Cremation Oakley Wood on Wednesday 29th October at 2.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations for Aspire (Spinal Injuries) may be sent to John Taylor Funeral Service, 9 St. Johns, Warwick CV34 4NE.

RICHARDSON - Norman, C.B.E., Durham City, died peacefully on October 23rd, devoted husband of Penny. Service Durham Cathedral on Wednesday, October 29th at 2pm, followed by private cremation. No flowers by request, donations if so desired to St Cuthberts Hospice, Durham City.

STEPHEN - Susannah Alice (Zannah) - Missing believed drowned in the Galapagos Islands on Sunday 12th October 1997. Dearly loved daughter of Sandy and Sue, sister of Graham and the late Sacha, sister-in-law of Trix and aunt of Jessica, Fiona and Melanie. A Thanksgiving Service for her life will be held in the Saltoun Parish Church at 11.30am on Saturday 29th November.

STRICKLAND - Lt. Col. John Wylmeth MC., formerly of 4th Gurkha Rifles. Died October 22nd 1997 aged 87. Much loved husband of Alison, father of Patricia, Melanie and Antonia and grandfather. Funeral Mass at St Edmund's Church, The Avenue, Southampton, at 1.00 pm on Friday October 31st. Family flowers only, donations to Gurkha Welfare Trust c/o J W Lawrence & Sons Tel: 01703 554801.

TILLIE - Arnold Bertram Kingsley (Bill). Peacefully on October 24th. Formerly of Newton Tony, Wiltshire. Beloved husband of the late Margaret and loving father of Colin, Alison, Joanna and Mark.

WATES - Joy, widow of Allan, and very much loved by all her family, passed quietly away on Tuesday, 21st October, 1997. Funeral Service at 12.30pm on Wednesday, 29th October, 1997, at St. John the Baptist, Robin Hood Lane, Kingston Vale, S.W.15. Family flowers only please, but donations in her memory may be made to the NSPCC, c/o Ashton Funeral Services, 140 Alexandra Road, London SW19 7JY.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

PHILLIPS - Peter. Following cremation in Singapore a Memorial Service will be held at Durleigh Church, Durleigh, Near Bridgwater, Somerset at noon on Tuesday 4th November 1997. No flowers. Donations if desired to Macmillan Cancer Relief, Anchor House, 15-19 Britten Street, London SW3 3TZ. Enquiries: 01580 852272.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

VON MOTESICZKY - Marie-Louise Von Motesiczky (24 October 1906 - 10 June 1996). There will be a ceremony to deposit the funerary urn of Miss Marie-Louise Von Motesiczky in the Motesiczky family tomb at the Doeblinger Friedhof, Hartäckerstrasse 65, at 10.30am on Tuesday 28th October 1997. Marie-Louise will be laid to rest beside her mother and father, and her brother Karl. On behalf of the family a memorial speech will be delivered by Mr Richard Karplus of Houston, Texas, and there will be an address by Dr. Gerbert Frodl, Director of the Austrian Gallery, Belvedere. Marie-Louise is remembered with joy in the memory of all who knew her. She survives in her art.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

ARMITAGE - Edmund Brian. Slipped the surly bonds of earth 26th October 1996. With love always Elisabeth, Jane, Nick, Jeremy and grandchildren Jack, Olivia, Rhiannon, Daisy, Charles and Samuel Brian.

BARTTELOT - In loving memory of William Barttelot October 26th, 1996.

CLARK - Martin C.R. Clark BSc. A.R.I.C.S. 1960-1995. Our love always Mum, Dad, Nicholas, Gill, Joanna and Holly.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

MAHAFFY - In ever loving memory of my darling Victoria who died on 1st April 1995. It would have been our golden wedding today. 'Quis separabit nos amori Dei'.

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Cab driver accused of raping girl, 13

MAURICE GRIFFITHS

Maurice Griffiths, GM, yacht designer, author and editor of *Yachting Monthly*, 1927-67, died on October 11 aged 95. He was born on May 22, 1902.

Maurice Griffiths did more than anyone else to make yachting accessible in the United Kingdom. The key to the riddle of the man lies in the sands which surrounded his island home in West Mersea, Essex. For it was the mudbanks and shallow channels of the Thames Estuary that inspired him to write books, to design shoal water yachts and to bring *Yachting Monthly* out of a rut of deference to the Royal Yacht Squadron set, filling its pages instead with the delights of mending leaky planks or navigating nameless creeks.

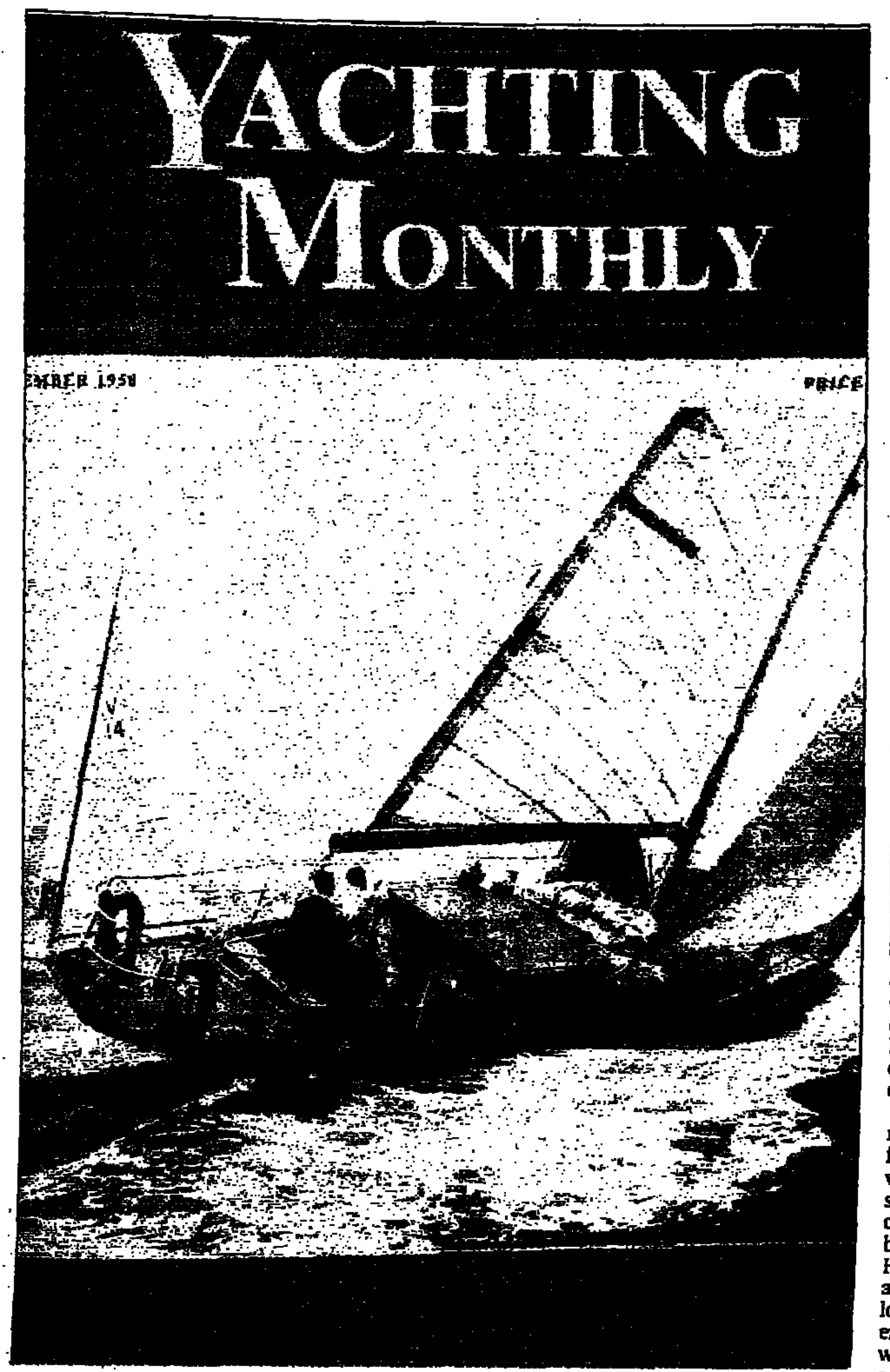
He wrote 20 books and hundreds of articles in the pages of *Yachting Monthly*, which he edited for 40 years, and from his designs more than 2,000 yachts have been launched. He also owned and sailed 22 different yachts himself.

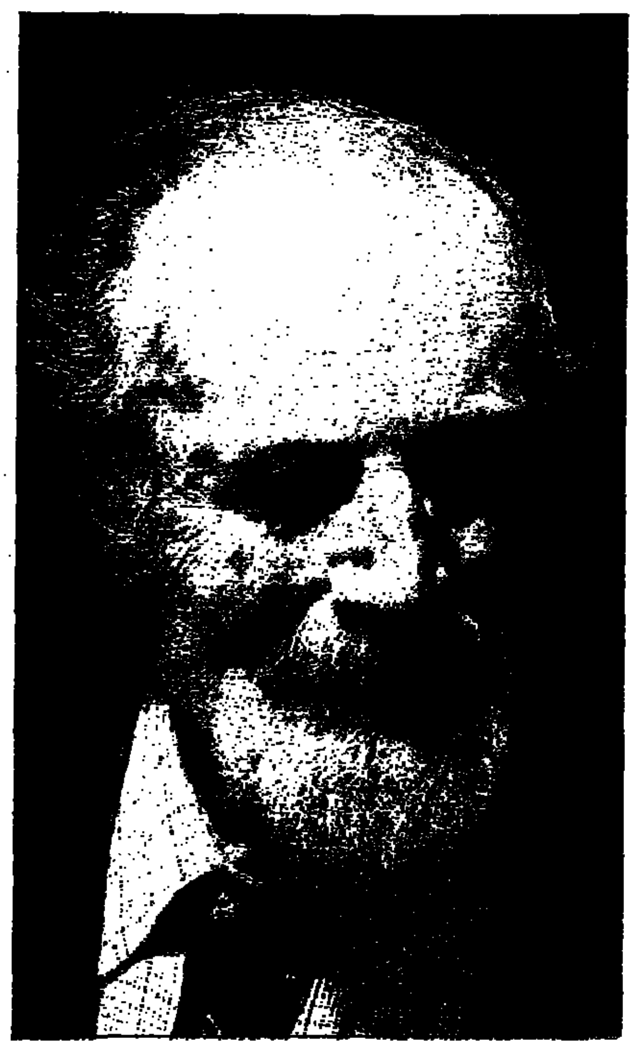
Maurice Griffiths's family moved to East Anglia in 1903, when his father, Walter, took a job as the East of England rep for a glove manufacturer, and moved his wife, Lena, and their two boys, Leslie and Maurice, from South London to Ipswich. They lived opposite the railway line, and it was there that the young MG, as he was always known, acquired his first love: of trains.

When he left Queen Elizabeth's School, he began work with an estate agent, but in his spare time wrote articles on trains for the *East Anglian Times*.

The train tracks soon took him down to the Ipswich docks, where he discovered boating. He established a small yacht brokerage, and in the course of buying and selling boats he learnt a lot about sailing and boatbuilding. In 1925 he published a little book called *Yachting on a Small Income* which, by a wry twist of fortune, sold well on railway station platforms.

When his father died suddenly, Griffiths's mother found that her husband had run up huge debts, and the family home had to be sold to meet them. Lena and Leslie went to the Midlands to stay with relatives; the brokerage petered out, and Griffiths decided to try his luck selling yachting articles as a freelance in London. He struggled for months and virtually starved; his constitution never fully recovered.





Salvation came in the form of George Bittles, the publisher of *Yachting Monthly*. A commuter, he had bought Griffiths's book at his local station, and believed he would be the right man to edit a new magazine, *Yacht Sales and Charters* — basically a yacht brokerage with its own magazine.

Griffiths made such a success of this that established brokers pledged to stop advertising in *Yachting Monthly* if the magazine continued. It did not, but Griffiths had proved himself and was given the editor's chair of *Yachting Monthly* — a considerable achievement for someone, in the words of one observer, "whose best contact was the lock-keeper at Heybridge Basin".

Among the people Griffiths had met while visiting the offices of yachting magazines trying to sell his wares was Dulcie Kennard, who became his first wife. She, too, wrote for the yachting press, under the byline "Peter Gerard". They married in 1927 but were divorced in 1934.

He met his second wife, Marjorie, known as "Coppie" from her maiden name of Copson, in December 1944 at *HMS Vernon*, where Griffiths was then based as a lieutenant-commander in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He was awarded the George Medal for bravery in recognition of his work trawling for mines in the North Sea and for deactivating parachute mines dropped on the London docks during the Blitz, as well as for his command of a group of divers clearing the Suez Canal of the same menace.

Later in the war he was responsible for the design and fitting of the explosive charges which sank 77 condemned ships off the coast of Normandy, where they formed the bulwarks of the Mulberry Harbour used during D-Day and after, in 1944. The meticulous attention to detail that enabled him to disarm mines was that of the man who once ensured that there was a space under the coal stove of a yacht in which to stow his on-board slippers, so that they would stay warm.

After the war, the invention of waterproof plywood and fibreglass enabled Griffiths's modest designs to be mass-produced. Two successes were the Eventide 24 and the Waterwitch 30. But popular though his boats were, he had no illusions about their aesthetic appeal: "If you ever see a barrel or a box with rudder and sails, it'll be one of my designs," he once said.

But, although he single-handedly gave yachting to the working man with his DIY designs and tips on converting former ships' lifeboats, his greatest contribution to giving the sport wide appeal probably came with the publication of his book of vignettes — *The Magic of the Swatchways* — giving accounts of humble cruises in small yachts from Lowestoft to Dover and across the North Sea to The Netherlands and Belgium. Published in 1932, it has been translated into Dutch and Polish, and gone through many editions. A biography of Griffiths, *The Magician of the Swatchways* by Dick Durham, was published in 1992.

Maurice Griffiths's second wife "Coppie", died in February. There were no children of either marriage.

ROGER WYBOT

Roger-Paul Warin, known as Roger Wybot, head of French counter-intelligence for the Fourth Republic, died in Paris on September 26 aged 84. He was born there on October 13, 1912.

ROGER WYBOT was called "the French Edgar Hoover", because of his single-minded hunt for Soviet agents, a task far more difficult in postwar France — with its sizeable and legal Communist Party — than it was across the Atlantic. Wybot also provoked something of the fear many Americans felt when they learnt that Hoover was investigating them. He kept files on the private lives of practically all prominent Fourth Republic politicians, including François Mitterrand.

He was at the heart of the political turmoil surrounding the numerous scandals of the teetering, 14-year Fourth Republic, which died with General de Gaulle's return to power in 1958. His career as head of the Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire (DST) came to an end abruptly in that year when, it was said, General de Gaulle discovered a listening device in his apartment at the Hotel Laperouse. The incoming French President had Wybot shunted to senior, but less sensitive, posts within the French police.

Wybot was an artillery officer who had fought up until the 1940 Armistice, when the Free French infiltrated him into the Vichy government's "anti-nationalist activities" branch — specially set up to track down Gaullists, Communists and freemasons. He was arrested by Vichy police in Marseilles in 1941, but escaped and made his way to London, where he became head of counter-espionage in the Gaullist secret service. It was at this time that he adopted the pseudonym Wybot.

He fell out with de Gaulle in 1942 and joined a Free French unit that fought in Libya, Tunisia and Italy, later taking part in the Allied invasion of the South of France in 1944. He was again made head of counter-espionage in General de Gaulle's first postwar government. He packed the new service with wartime comrades and set about hunting down Vichy militia chiefs and collaborators. He questioned René Hardy, a leading Resistance figure suspected of having betrayed Jean Moulin, head of the Resistance, to Klaus Barbie of the Gestapo in Lyons. The case against Hardy was never proved. He did, however, arrest the millionaire scrap dealer Joseph Joanovici, who was a leading collaborator.

Wybot played a central role in resolving or calming a number of scandals involving France's war in Indo-China, notably the so-called "Affaire des Généraux" in 1950, when a report on the military situation by the Indo-China Commander-in-Chief, General Georges Revers, found its way into the hands of Ho Chi Minh's Vietminh rebels. Revers was sacked.

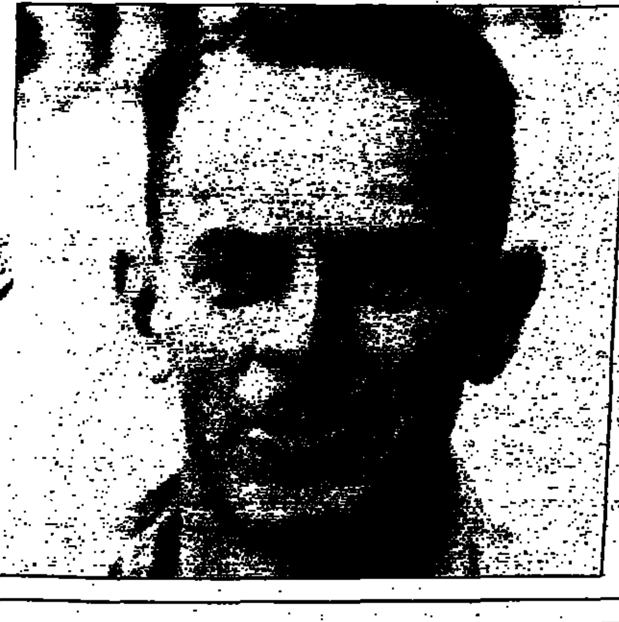
Wybot was in charge of the fight, at home, against the Algerian Front de Libération Nationale, but he was mainly preoccupied with uncovering Soviet agents in the military, Nato and the nuclear industry. He forged what was called an "entente cordiale" with Hoover.

He always denied that he had placed microphones in de Gaulle's apartment, and successfully sued a newspaper that claimed that this had been the reason for de Gaulle "kicking him upstairs".

He was named Inspecteur Général of the Police and of the Sûreté Nationale. He occupied the same job under different titles until 1973. His biography, written by a journalist friend, *Roger Wybot et la bataille pour la DST*, was a 1975 justification of his career but gave away few secrets. He remained a figure of some mystery to the end. In his later years in the police he became adept at acupuncture, wrote a standard book on the subject and was known to treat his colleagues at the Interior Ministry. He was also an expert on hypnotism and spiritualism.

He wrote several plays, one of them, *Antigone*, was in the classical vein and another was performed on the radio by actors of the Comédie Française. He received some of the highest distinctions of the Republic, notably the order of Compagnon de la Libération.

CAPTAIN QUENTIN SMYTHE, VC



Captain Quentin Smythe, VC, died on October 21 aged 81. He was born in Natal on August 6, 1916.

QUENTIN SMYTHE won his VC as a sergeant in the 1st Natal Carabineers in the 1st South African Brigade during the Eighth Army's disastrous defeat at Rommel's hands during the Battle of Gazala in June 1942.

The Eighth Army, commanded by Neil Ritchie, who had defeated Rommel and driven him out of Cyrenaica in the autumn of 1941, had lost two divisions and an armoured brigade which were sent to reinforce Malaya and Burma after the Japanese surged into South-East Asia at the beginning of 1942. Rommel seized his opportunity to counterattack, and drove the weakened Eighth Army back to the Gazala line covering Tobruk.

The northern half of the Eighth Army's line was held by infantry divisions using fortified brigade "boxes", while the southern half was the preserve of the armoured divisions. The 1st South African Brigade was holding the prominent Alem Hamza box, jutting out into the Axis line some ten miles inland from the coast.

Ritchie's mind was set on launching a new offensive, and he was caught off-balance by Rommel, who struck first with the epic drive by his Afrika Korps round the open southern flank into the Eighth Army's rear, while he fought to clear a supply route to his panzer divisions, which were almost out of fuel.

On June 3, the 1st South African Brigade carried out what the British official history describes as a very well handled raid on the Italian Trento Division, which was trying to hold open Rommel's precarious new supply route. It was during this raid that Smythe won his VC.

Casualties had been heavy and, although wounded in the forehead and suffering from loss of blood, Smythe took command of his platoon when it lost its officer during an attack on an enemy strongpoint. Singlehanded, he destroyed an enemy machine-gun post, taking the surviving crew prisoner. Soon afterwards he did the same to an anti-tank-gun crew, enabling him to consolidate his position until he was ordered to withdraw.

But no amount of South African gallantry could reverse the effect of the British armour's defeats in the Cauldron and at Knightsbridge. The Eighth Army fell back to El Alamein, where the South Africans played a crucial role in stopping Rommel for good.

Quentin George Murray Smythe was the son of Edric Smythe and the grandson of the Hon Charles Smythe, the first Administrator of Natal. After being educated at Eastcourt School, he served with the 1st Natal Carabineers in East Africa against the Italians before the Western Desert campaign.

After the war he joined the South African Department of Defence, returning to farming after his retirement. He was awarded the freedom of Durban in recognition of his gallantry.

He was three times married: first, in 1945, to Dale Griffiths, by whom he had three sons and a daughter; this marriage was dissolved in 1970 and later that year he married Margaret Joan Shatwell, who died in 1980. He is survived by his third wife, Patricia, whom he married in 1984.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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AMIN, MANUBHAI NARANBHAI of 349 Fulham Palace Road, London SW6 6TB died on 14 December 1996; particulars to D B Morris & CO Solicitors of 22 GOLDEN SQUARE, LONDON W1R 3PA before 2 January 1998.

BAKER, FEVRONIA FLEUR SHELMERDINE, Cordhill Manor, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, died 25th August 1997; particulars to Biddle & Co, Solicitors, 1 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7BU, before 2 January 1998.

HUDSON-LYONS, JOHN of Court House, Wonersh, Guildford, Surrey died on 25 August 1997; particulars to Goodman Derrick Solicitors of 90 Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1EQ (Ref: IGR/10966-0016) before 2 January 1998.

KORNBLUTH, EDITH of 164 Ellesmere Road, Dollis Hill, London NW10 died on 14 September 1997 particulars to MATTHEW ARNOLD & BALDWIN Solicitors of PO BOX 101, 20 STATION ROAD, WATFORD, HERTS WD1 1HT before 2 January 1998. (Personal Representative(s): Richard Sidney Kingsley).

ROWLANSON, MARY ELIZABETH of Petuna Rise, Danehill, Sussex died 31st August 1997; particulars to Biddle & Co, Solicitors, 1 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7BU before 1st January 1998.

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WILLSON, ROSA THERESA of Kilfinnan House, Gravesdyke Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire died on 19 August 1997 particulars to MATTHEW ARNOLD & BALDWIN Solicitors of PO Box 101, 20 STATION ROAD, WATFORD, HERTS WD1 1HT before 2 January 1998. (Personal Representative(s): Peter Ernest Willson).

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Arthur Uriah Broom, deceased
Scheme to provide for application of income
Reference: CS-16642-CD(Lds)
The Charity Commissioners have made a scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at PDSA, Whitechapel Way, Priorslee, Telford, Shropshire, TF2 9PQ, or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX, quoting the reference above.

MILESTONES

Roberto C. Goizueta, chief executive of Coca-Cola, died on October 18. He was born on November 18, 1931.

Roberto Goizueta devoted almost all of his 43-year career to the manufacture and sale of Coca-Cola, and headed the company for 16 years. Born in Cuba, he was educated at Yale, where he read chemical engineering. After working briefly for the family business in Cuba, he joined the Coca-Cola Company in Havana in 1954. In the aftermath of the Castro revolution, he settled in the US in 1961, arriving in Miami with $40 in cash and 100 Coca-Cola shares (which would now be worth some $3 million). After rising through the ranks he was appointed chief executive in 1981, and set about reviving a then rather moribund company. Diet Coke, introduced in 1982, was a great success. In 1985, however, Goizueta's passion for innovation got the better of him, prompting one of the most spectacular miscalculations in the history of marketing. In response to increased competition from the sweeter Pepsi, he tinkered with the sacred Coke formula and introduced "New Coke". The public loathed it, and there was a huge drop in sales before the original recipe was reintroduced as "Classic Coke" after only three months. Goizueta was also a notable philanthropist.

Obituary published on October 20.

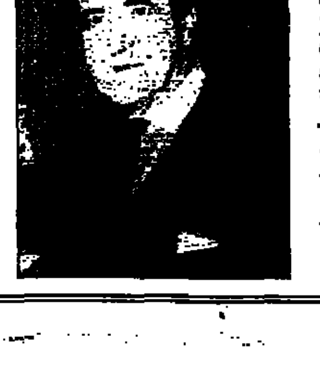
Kenneth Wood, inventor of the Kenwood Chef electric mixer, died on October 19. He was born on October 4, 1916.

Kenneth Wood developed and gave his name to one of the favourite fixtures in the postwar kitchen. The prototype of his Kenwood Chef electric mixer drew raised eyebrows from bankers and other backers when he tried to finance its production in 1948. Potential suppliers were no more impressed, demanding money upfront before they handed over parts. But Wood went ahead regardless, and was richly rewarded for his faith. After some years at sea, he found work in a radio repair shop, and then built up a radio business of his own. His first venture into kitchen appliances came after the war, when he set up a company with a partner to manufacture toasters. The Chef followed, and was enthusiastically snapped up after a demonstration at Harrods. Kenwood was soon able to buy up other companies in the field, and expanded its range to include everything from irons to dishwashers and waste-disposal systems. Wood was a millionaire at 42. He founded the Forest Mere Health Farm at Liphook, and developed a golf club near his home. He had always said that he "didn't want to be one of those goons who ends up with £4 million and hasn't lived".

Obituary published on October 22.

Sir Gilbert Longden, MBE, MP for South West Herts, 1950-74, died on October 16. He was born on April 16, 1902.

Gilbert Longden typified the best of the old Tory party, which owed so much to the adoption of Beveridge and full employment in the years immediately after the end of the Second World War. Longden was an original member of the One Nation Group which included Enoch Powell, Edward Heath, Iain Macleod, Angus Maude, Reginald Maudling and Sir John Rodgers.



Longden, a bachelor, was the only one of the group not to win office, but remained an articulate backbencher until the age of 72 when he retired at the first of the two general elections of 1974. He is perhaps best remembered for his comment at Prime Minister's Questions after Macmillan's botched reshuffle of 1962, which became known as the "Night of the Long Knives". Longden said: "May I take this opportunity of congratulating the Prime Minister on having kept his head while all around were losing theirs."

Obituary published on October 22.

Harold French, actor and theatre director, died on October 19. He was born on April 23, 1900.

Born in London of Irish parents, Harold French made his first stage appearance in 1912 in one of Granville Barker's famous Shakespeare revivals, *The Winter's Tale*. But French's niche in the history of 20th-century theatre is for his work as a director, notably for making a hit of *French Without Tears*, Terence Rattigan's first play, which in rehearsal had looked like being a disaster. During the 1920s and early 1930s, French had a variety of light acting roles, but realised that this was not his metier. His ability to get on with the varied temperaments found in the theatrical world, however, made him a most sympathetic director, and he continued working for the stage into the 1970s. Among the films he directed were *Jeannie* (1941); *Secret Mission* (1942); Dodie Smith's *Dear Octopus* (1943), probably his best; and *Rob Roy the Highland Rogue* (1953).

Obituary published on October 24.

هكذا من الأصل

Shares fail to hold early gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
529	407½	Allied Domecq	510	- 3	5.3	15.3
626	385	Bulmer (HP)	466	- 2½	3.9	13.0
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	51	+ 2	8.6	
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	975		1.7	24.1
638	425½	Grand Met	579	- 5	3.2	18.6
639½	424	Guinness†	587	- ½	3.3	16.1
320	280	Highland Dist	316½	- 3	3.6	14.2
336	213	Matthew Clark	254½	+ ½	11.9	7.6
109½	52½	Merrydown W	57½		6.7	14.2
2089½	1462½	SA Breweries	1765½	+ 25	2.1	

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521½	918¾	ABN-AMRO	1190½	+ 6¼	2.7	16.9
991½	710	Abbey Ntl	952	+ 23	3.6	15.6
770	532½	Alliance & Leic	595	- 1	2.9	16.3
553	388½	Allied Irish	527½		3.5	15.0
516¼	363½	Aus New Z	427½	- 21¼	4.4	
4391½	2875	Bank America	4750	+ 37½		
558	291½	Bank Scotland†	536	+ 16	2.1	14.6
1500	978½	Barclays	1535	- 15	2.7	14.6
914½	517½	Bk of Ireland	772½		2.6	17.1
8959¾	6006¼	Citicorp	9509¾	- 325		
1753½	1268¼	Commerzbk	1668¼	- 9¼	2.8	
962½	512½	Dai Ich Kan Y	534½	+ 21½	0.8	
4593¾	2709¾	Deutsche Bk	4112½	+ 71¼	1.5	
1300	759¾	Esprito Santo	1263½	- 3½	3.9	
947½	590¼	Fuji Bank Y	605½	+ 10¼	0.7	
2369½	1272½	HSBC	1612	- 2	2.6	13.1
2258½	1241	HSBC Hk	1543	+ 12	2.7	12.5
793	675	Halifax	685	- 1	2.7	23.1
645	483½	Irish Perm†	505		2.6	16.5
860½	424	Lloyds TSB	723	- 17	2.5	21.1
1008	663	Nat Aust Bk	867	- 27¼	4.4	12.6
1012½	663½	Nat West	947	- 3	4.0	14.9
504½	450	Northern Rock	486	- 7½	3.3	19.2
723½	503	Ryl Bk Scot	670	- 3	3.6	14.4
1093½	629	Stand Chart	670	- 19½	2.9	11.7
£164½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164½		1.9	
403½	315½	Westpac	366	- 12½	4.2	
373½	284	Woolwich†	297	- 4	3.3	17.6

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
978½	717½	Bass	816½	- 8½	3.9	15.3
68¼	43½	[illegible]	51½		4.4	10.9
205	137½	Burtonwood Bre	146	+ 1½	5.1	13.6
355½	121½	City Centre Rest	134½	- ½	2.3	20.9
734½	575½	Compass Gp	686	+ 3	1.6	25.2
305	250	Eldridge P A	270½		2.6	14.9
366	227	Enterprise Inns	356	+ 3	3.3	18.9
485	412	Fuller Sm A	436		3.9	15.2
586	344	Greenalls Grp	344	- 5½	5.9	8.6
770	642	Greene King	661½	- 1	3.1	14.2
237½	152½	[illegible]	300		4.0	20.8
293½	218½	Groupe Chez Gen	280½		1.4	
299½	249	Hardy Hanson	249	- ½	5.5	11.1
2950	2500	Holt J1	2562½	- 7½	2.9	14.2
78	62½	Inn Business	62½		3.2	10.0
357	317	Mansfield	318½		2.7	13.0

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
225	162½	Cat Group	183½	- 14	2.7	19.8
169½	117½	Caverdale	163½	+ 2	2.9	9.5
100	61½	Charles Sidney†	82½	- 1	4.8	11.8
59½	46½	Cook (DC)	47		6.4	8.3
121	90½	Dag Motors†	102½	- 6	9.8	6.7
134½	102½	Devenns El	104		3.4	9.5
400	217	Diploma	266½		6.8	10.1
502½	387½	Electrocomponts	476½	- 8½	2.0	26.9
226½	117½	Eurodis Elect	165½		3.9	32.3
105	78½	European Mtr	98½		7.1	8.8
300	213	Evans Halshaw	286		7.2	
55½	39½	Foe Indmar	52½		8.1	8.6
397½	312½	Freeloot Grp	339½		2.8	15.1
34½	23½	Gardiner	23½	- ½	5.0	8.8
79½	57½	Glencrewton	71		2.8	11.5
110	82½	Gomneggst	104½		3.7	17.4
15½	11	HR Owen†	14	+ ½	6.5	9.5
103	20½	Hamlet #	22½			2.1
272½	232½	Harris (Philip)†	267½		4.7	10.3
374	294½	Headlam	351½	- 2	2.2	21.2
172	145	Holders Tech	172		4.7	14.0
240½	125	ISA Intl	125	- 3½	3.0	9.8
308½	240½	Inchcape†	243½	- 1	5.0	16.0
72	49½	Jacks (Wm)†	67½	- 2	4.6	8.7
347½	214½	Kwik-Fit	331½		2.2	18.2
460½	316½	Lex Service	446½	- 1	4.6	13.4
122	97	Lookers	101½	+ 4	9.9	7.3
9	5½	Middlesex	7½	- ½	1.6	15.6
41½	10½	Midsdest	18		3.3	
472	180	Norbain	330	- 11	3.1	11.5
181½	114½	Normamber	180½	+ 3½	1.0	12.6
352½	297½	Parcon	327½	- 1	3.1	17.2
394½	254½	Pendragon	297	- ½	4.3	13.1
223½	172½	Perry Gp†	186		6.2	8.2
751	445	Premier Farnell†	494	- 2	3.2	18.3
144½	116	Quicks Group▼	139½		7.4	8.6
357	307½	REA	312½		1.6	69.0
2½	1½	Reece	1½			50.2
28	12½	Rossan	13½	+ ½		
4	1½	Ross Gp	3½			
109½	78½	Ryland	90		5.7	8.5
38	24	SEP Indl	31		6.2	14.3
92½	35	Saltire	42		3.6	
415½	250½	Time Products	251½		6.3	10.1
347	184½	Trust Motor Grp	194½	- ½	7.7	8.0
408	228	UNIECO	403½		1.7	26.2
93½	58	United Oseas Gp†	90		0.5	20.0
352½	267½	Vardy (Reg)	312½		3.0	14.9
685	498½	WF Elect	653		2.9	22.4
41	25½	Wilshaw	32		3.3	9.0
172½	111½	Wyko†	154½	- ½	2.4	17.2
158½	119½	Young (H)	156½	- 1	3.4	13.3

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492½	327½	Antofagasta	395		1.7	20.3
328	232	Acorn Hldgs†	286½		2.3	12.5
917	603½	Broken Hill	605½	+ 2	3.6	15.4
289	190½	BTR†	219	- 8	5.0	7.6
624	462	BAT†	548	- 16	5.9	11.7
60½	47½	Brierley Inv	47½	- 1	10.1	7.7
366	182	Cookson	256	- 4	4.0	15.8
229½	197½	Cosalt	212½	- 4	6.1	9.2
415	255½	DCC	415		2.1	15.5
330	243½	Gallaher†	310½	- 1½	7.7	9.7
140½	101½	Hanson Crdnt	133	- 1	8.3	14.9
667½	375½	Hutch Whamp	421½	+ 46	2.8	25.4

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No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Hewetson	Bld Mats	
2	*Meyer Int*	*Bld Mats*	
3	Brwn Dlphn	Oth Fin	
4	Nat Powr	Elecry	
5	Hillsdown	Food Man	
6	Pilkington	Bld Mats	
7	DFS Furn	Ret Gen	
8	Tlbry Dgls	Bld & Cons	
9	Eng China Cl	Mining	
10	Caverdale	Distrib's	
11	Hitachi Cred	Oth Fin	
12	Rbrt Wltrs	Sup Serv	
13	*Inspec*	*Chemicals*	
14	Woolwich	Banks	
15	Scapa	Chemicals	
16	Rathbone Brs	Oth Fin	
17	Smithkline	Pharm'cals	
18	EMAP	Media	
19	Grmpn Hdg	Ret Gen	
20	Sema Gp	Sup Serv	
21	Carpetright	Ret Gen	
22	Tesco	Ret Food	
23	More Grp	Media	
24	Character Grp	Leisure	
25	Arjo Wiggins	Print Pap	
26	*Ryl Bk Scot*	*Banks*	
27	Hghlnd Distl	Alc Bev	
28	First Tech	Eng, Veh	
29	Select App	Sup Serv	
30	Pearson	Media	
31	Avis Eurp	Transport	
32	Unilever	Food Man	
33	Hlphr Gp	Transport	
34	Pillar Prop	Property	
35	Entrprs Inns	Breweries	
36	Zetters Gp	Leisure	
37	Daejan	Property	
38	Nws Crp Pref	Media	
39	Croda	*Chemicals*	
40	Liberty Ind	Oth Fin	
41	Beazer	*Bld & Cons*	
42	Cmpss Gp	Breweries	
43	Ryl&Sun Al	Insurance	
44	Charter	Engin'ing	

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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Weekly accumulator total

Four winners shared the prize yesterday, each receiving £500. They are: K Lazarus, Bushey Heath; M Bell, Surrey; C Williams, Wheatley, Oxford; R Williams, London.

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
67½	53½	Jerome (S)	54½		7.2	13.3
380	293	Jones Stroud	359		3.8	17.1
178	110	Lambert	174		5.7	11.8
195	128	Lamont	130		12.7	10.5
173	105	Leeds	127½		6.7	9.5
38½	21½	Leslie Wise Gp	24½		11.5	18.8
72	47	Lyles (S)	72		4.0	11.7
18½	7½	Marling	16½		1.5	62.9
8½	3½	PEX	4½			7.8
207½	165½	Parkland	183½		4.5	8.0
118	88	Pentland	98	- ½	4.6	14.7
103	75½	Pittards	76½	- 1	5.7	5.2
46½	35	Readicut	39½		8.2	12.8
45½	19½	Richards	36		6.9	
40½	26½	SEET	30			

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
127½	84½	Abacus Recruit	125½	- ½	1.6	
215	170	Cafe Inns▼	199		1.9	18.7
248½	153½	Country Gdns	216½	- 1	8.9	15.5
262½	180	Dawson Hldgs	205		2.9	18.8
51½	33½	Freepages	36½	+ 1		
89½	75	Megalomedia	81½		0.3	40.6
65	32½	Memory Corp	35			
590	280	Prism Rail	322½			
1265	797½	Ranco Egy	810		0.2	
783	619½	Southern Vectis	771		3.2	
72½	65½	Southern Vectis	68½		3.8	14.5
60½	17½	Tocadero	22½			

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

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HOT SEAT 30
Man of glass with a clear strategy

BUSINESS

WEEKEND MONEY
SECTION 2 PAGES 51-64

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft
SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 1997

Recovery short-lived as markets fail to shake off jitters

Hong Kong after-shock rolls on

By Janet Bush
Economics Editor

SHARE prices gyrated wildly yesterday in London and New York as world stock markets continued to be buffeted by the aftershocks of Hong Kong's record fall in share prices on Thursday despite a rebound in the Hang Seng index.

The FTSE 100 index initially surged by 111 points and Wall Street seemed destined to follow, with the Dow Jones industrial average rebounding by more than 91 points at the opening.

However, the recovery was short-lived as the Dow suddenly started to retreat, dragging European markets off their highs. At midsession, the Dow was quoted 116.16 points lower at 7,731.61.

The FTSE 100 ended down 21.3 points at 4,970.2, representing a loss over the course of the week of 300 points, or six per cent.

Bob Semple, strategist at NatWest, said: "Three hundred points down looks like a fair comment on the week. Asia continues to be a source of tension. We've had a dead cat bounce in Hong Kong and people seem a bit happier about whether the peg will hold, but worries over Hong Kong property values won't go away that quickly."

European stock markets had taken comfort as traders woke up to the news that the Hong Kong market had risen nearly 7 per cent, recovering much of the 10 per cent fall of the previous session.

The Hang Seng closed 718.04 points higher at 11,144.34, its second-largest points gain ever. On Thursday it recorded its largest points fall of 1,211.47.

But the recovery was temporary. Wall Street traders cited continuing jitters about the turmoil in Asian markets as well as nervousness about a speech on the economic outlook by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, who is speaking to the Joint Economic Committee of Congress.

There was some relief in Hong Kong that interest rates, jacked up on Thursday to deter speculation against the Hong Kong dollar, settled back to more normal levels. Overnight money, which jumped to quotes as high as 300 per cent at the height of Thursday's crisis, came back down to around 10 per cent.

There was bargain-hunting on the stock market, largely from companies that took advantage of the cheap prices to buy back their own shares. Some shareholders took the opportunity of increasing holdings of listed companies.

Despite the rebound yesterday, the Hang Seng still stands 18 per cent lower over the week, and 33 per cent down from its record closing high in August.

Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's chief executive, again expressed confidence that the authorities would be able to beat off speculative attacks against the Hong Kong dollar, pegged for 14 years to the US dollar. He also had some advice for investors, saying: "The market has fallen but at certain levels it becomes a good buy."

Confidence was patchy, however. China National Aviation Co Ltd said that it is postponing an initial public offering of its shares, saying that it would go ahead when the Hong Kong market had recovered some stability.

While Hong Kong recovered some of its poise, other Asian markets continued to come under pressure. Thailand's stock market lost more than 3 per cent ahead of the appointment of its third finance minister in ten months. However, the Thai baht, which this week hit a record low, held steady after the announcement that Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Thailand's Prime Minister, had appointed Kosit Panpiemras, executive director of Bangkok Bank, as finance minister.

In Europe, Frankfurt stocks closed nearly 2 per cent higher, but this was before the opening on Wall Street and the subsequent fall in American share values. In after-hours German trading, stocks were quoted only just in positive territory. In Paris, stocks lost healthy initial gains and closed down a fraction.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4970.2	(−21.3)
Yield	3.28%	
FTSE All share	2361.32	(−6.46)
Nikkei	17363.74	(+212.19)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7752.00	(−95.77)
S&P Composite	940.78	(−8.91)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	$5\frac{7}{16}$%*	($5\frac{9}{16}$%)
Long Bond	$101\frac{9}{32}$*	($100\frac{13}{16}$)
Yield	6.28%*	(6.31%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	$7\frac{5}{16}$%	($7\frac{9}{32}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	$118\frac{24}{32}$	($118\frac{21}{32}$)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.6340*	(1.6327)
London:		
$	1.6341	(1.6299)
DM	2.9058	(2.8925)
FFr	9.7355	(9.6905)
SFr	2.4032	(2.3980)
Yen	198.17	(198.43)
£ Index	102.1	(101.7)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.7734*	(1.7667)
FFr	5.9398*	(5.9418)
SFr	1.4648*	(1.4635)
Yen	121.93*	(121.94)
$ Index	105.6	(105.6)
Tokyo close Yen 121.65		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jan)	$20.20	($20.05)
GOLD		
London close	$315.95	($323.25)

* denotes midday trading price

Liberty set for family challenge

By Adam Jones

THE matriarch of the family that founded Liberty, the retailer famed for its floral designs, has called an extraordinary meeting to impose board changes.

Elizabeth Stewart-Liberty, whose late husband, Arthur, was Liberty chairman for 29 years, owns about 13 per cent of the company. The Stewart-Liberty family owns about 27 per cent but is no longer represented on the board.

Oliver Stewart-Liberty, who with his brother Richard was the last Liberty executive from the family, refused to comment on the move last night.

There was speculation last night that the retailer may have received a takeover approach that was not put to shareholders.

Tempus, page 31

Tecs at centre of allegations of fraud and irregularities

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

TRAINING and Enterprise Councils, which have an annual state-funded budget of £1.25 billion, are at the centre of a wide-ranging inquiry into allegations of fraud and mismanagement, it emerged yesterday.

At least 20 cases of alleged fraud by firms under contract to Tecs in England and Wales and their equivalents in Scotland are being investigated by the Government. Dozens of Tecs are believed to be involved. One training provider is being investigated by police.

Kim Howells, Education and Employment Minister, yesterday said Centec, which serves central England, could be closed and its duties absorbed by neighbouring Tecs.

An investigation by the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) has identified "serious concerns" about the internal audit within the council. If Centec is closed it become only the second Tec to be shut. The other, South Thames, fell into bankruptcy.

Tecs, which arrange courses through commercial training providers, have been criticised after a string of controversial mis-payments and fraud investigations. Numerous cases have been reported of payments being made for training students who did not exist or for training that was never given to students who did exist.

Yesterday Michael Bichard, Permanent Secretary at the DfEE, wrote to the chairmen of all Tecs in England and Wales to set out the Government's "deep concern about errors and irregular payments". He wrote: "I wish to do everything possible to reverse what appears to be a fall in standards of financial control."

Mr Howells promised "zero tolerance" of payment errors and other irregularities in dealings with companies that provide training services. Irregular payments, which are poor administration and mistaken payments rather than fraud, are this year expected to double to more than £17 million. The fraud investigations could reveal additional losses of several million pounds.

Mr Howells said: "The provision of good quality training lies at the heart of our commitment to lifelong learning and Tecs play a vital role in delivering that commitment. It is all the more important therefore that we have 100 per cent confidence that public money is being spent properly and effectively."

A spokeswoman for the Tec National Council said: "We have given ministers our assurance that we will work with them to ensure tight financial controls are kept." She said irregular payments had fallen in the six years since direct financial control was removed from the Government.

Commentary, page 29

Glaxo chief challenge over costs

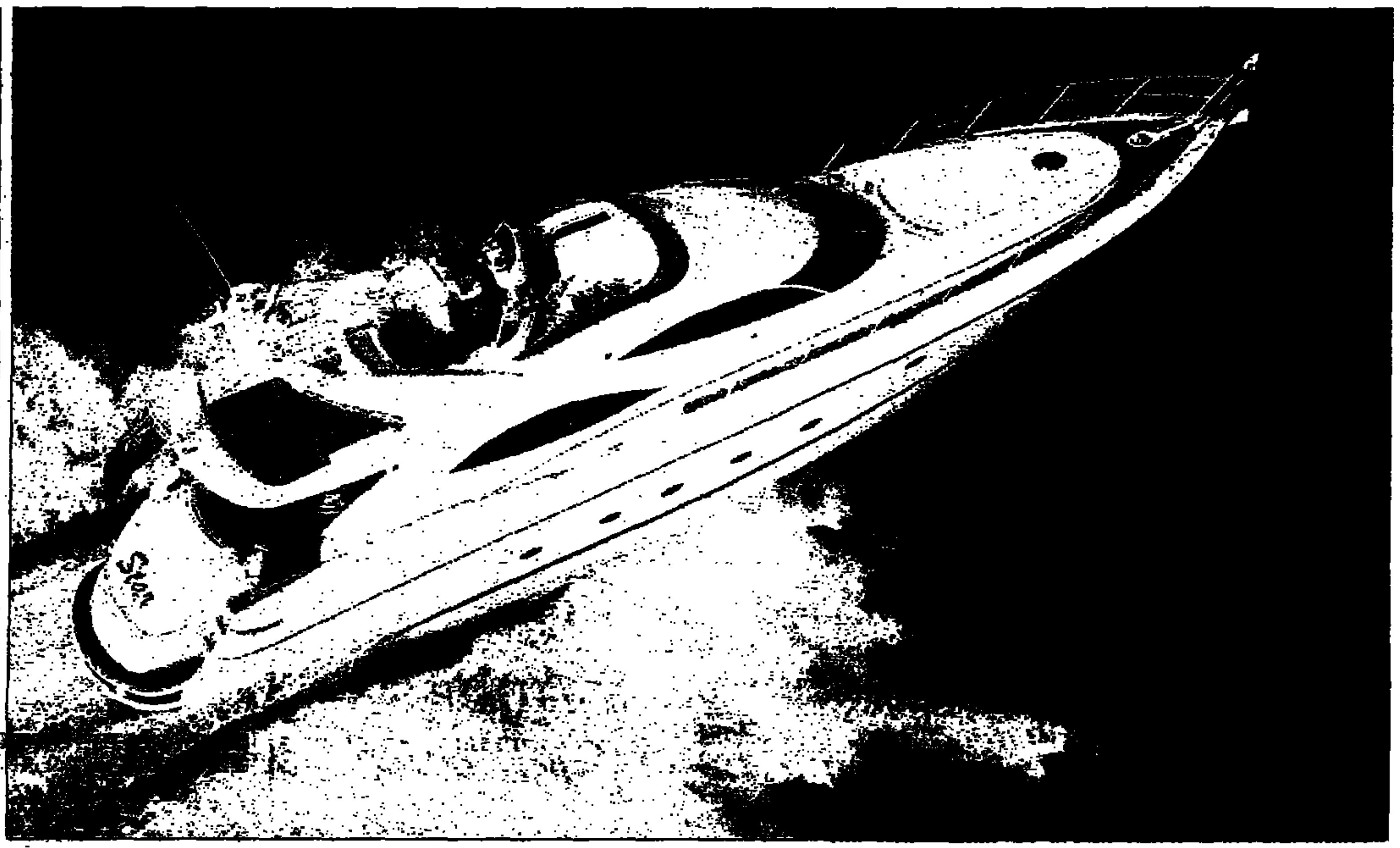
By Paul Durman

POLICITIANS would be misguided to squeeze the profits of the pharmaceutical companies in an attempt to reduce healthcare costs, Sir Richard Sykes, chairman and chief executive of Glaxo Wellcome, suggested yesterday.

Sir Richard challenged the presumption that the pharmaceutical industry is highly profitable and presents an opportunity for easy public expenditure savings. He said new drugs could cut healthcare costs by reducing the length of time patients remain in hospital. "Medicines represent the best value and the greatest efficiency there is in healthcare," he told a conference in London.

He also ruled out the need for further mega-mergers in the industry. Many commentators believe the fragmented industry will continue to consolidate through deals such as Glaxo's merger with Wellcome, and the Sandoz-Ciba merger that created Novartis.

Sir Richard attacked policy-makers' attempts to restrict healthcare spending to a given percentage of national output. "Society should want to spend more on healthcare," he said. "Healthcare is a desirable good."



Sunseeker's new £1.8 million luxury flagship, the 80-ft Manhattan flybridge. The company will be exhibiting in Florida next week

Sunseeker powers towards record year

By George Sivell

SUNSEEKER International, the Poole-based builder of luxury powerboats, is streaking towards a record financial year and will next week tackle the lucrative American market on its home territory at the Fort Lauderdale boat show.

The show opens in Florida on Thursday. Robert Braithwaite, Sunseeker chairman, says that the luxury powerboat market is dominated by the big American players but the Dorset company still manages to export 99 per cent of its production, one third of it to the American market.

Sunseeker achieved sales of £42 million in the six months to October, and has sufficient orders in hand to reach its internal target forecast of £76 million for the full year, an increase of 19 per cent on the previous year.

At this level of sales pre-tax profits would reach £4 million, a 5 per cent increase. Sunseeker says it had a successful Southampton Boat Show in September and has since sold 44 of its Camargue 44 mid-sized family cruiser at £200,000 each.

Mr Braithwaite expects to maintain production at about 260 craft annually.

Staples issues £1m writ over sacking

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

BRIAN STAPLES, the ousted chief executive of United Utilities, served a £1 million writ on the company yesterday, alleging that he was forced to resign in a showdown with Sir Desmond Pitcher, the chairman.

He has also begun proceedings for an industrial tribunal hearing.

The writ said that Mr Staples was threatened with dismissal without any warning. "At a meeting attended by... Sir Desmond Pitcher and Mr Howard Jacobs, a partner with the solicitors Slaughter and May, the plaintiff was told he could either resign or be dismissed with immediate effect," it said.

Mr Staples is demanding two years' salary plus other emoluments, which will top £1 million. In the writ he lists numerous benefits associated with his £307,500-a-year job at the multi-utility, including membership of an executive bonus scheme and two share option programmes, the pension scheme, a company BMW and home phone charges. Mr Staples, who was on a rolling two-year contract, had worked there for just over three years.

The sacking of Mr Staples triggered unrest from institutional investors, who demanded that Sir Desmond should step down. Succession plans for the management of United Utilities are due to be unveiled in the next few weeks.

A spokesman for the company said: "We will vigorously defend the actions."

Hambro choice at I&S questioned

By Paul Durman

THE new board of Ivory & Sime Enterprise Capital, the investment trust that has appointed JO Hambro to handle its winding up, was yesterday accused of allowing a director only four hours to seek shareholder support for alternative proposals.

The row has prompted disquiet at one leading institutional investor, which described JO Hambro's appointment as "rather pre-ordained". A senior fund manager said that Hew Balfour was acting conscientiously as an independent director in attempting to listen to shareholders' views.

Mr Balfour resigned his directorship of the trust on Thursday in protest at the way in which the appointment of JO Hambro was rushed through, without consideration of alternative plans.

Mr Balfour was the only one of the trust's four previous directors to survive a boardroom assault mounted by Colin McLean's Scottish Value Trust, which owns 27 per cent of Enterprise Capital.

Enterprise Capital replaced Mr Balfour with James Hambro, chairman of JO Hambro, simultaneously appointing the firm as manager in place of Ivory & Sime.

Mr Balfour said yesterday that he had asked for two weeks grace to seek shareholder views. He was given only a day, and that had been cut to an "absurd" four hours because of another meeting he had had.

A WEEK IN THE CITY

IT was Big Bang and Black Monday rolled into one. Dealers who began the week sneering at the lack of action — Brown Monday, they dubbed it — were soon sneezing and shivering, as a severe bout of Hong Kong flu swept the globe. By Red Thursday, stock markets had turned a whiter shade of pale. Private investors could only look on in dismay.

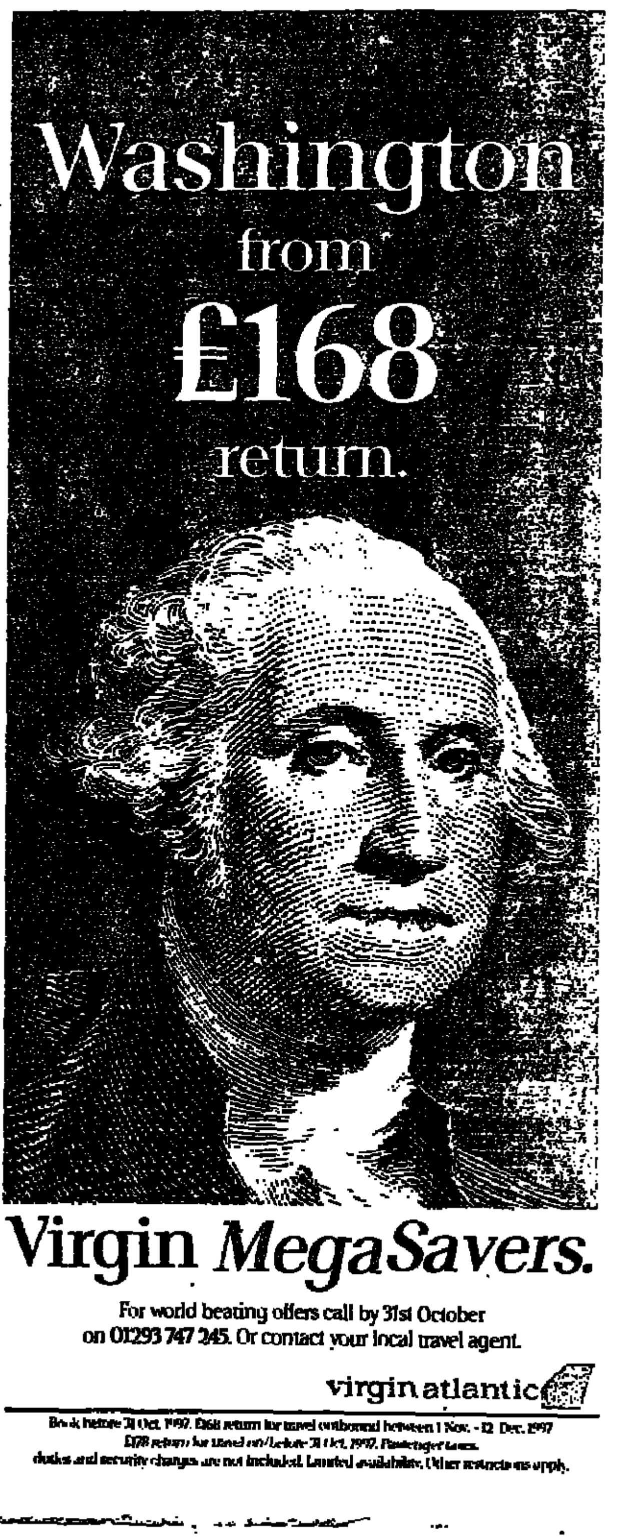
Ten years ago, a hurricane was the unforeseen factor that brought the raging bull market of the 1980s crashing to its knees. This week, outside events again proved the trigger for one of the market's bumpiest rides ever. Sets, the new order-driven share trading system, sprang to life on Monday doing everything that it was not supposed to do. Low liquidity and ever-widening gaps between the bid and offer prices sent the FTSE 100 index see-sawing. Screens turned from blue to red and back again, leaving fund managers gasping with exasperation. The market, down 119 points at one stage, ended the day 60 points lower.

The computer confusion set the scene for what was to follow. Overnight on Tuesday, the Hang Seng index in Hong Kong fell 567 points to 12,403, as the territory became locked in a battle with the currency speculators who have wreaked havoc elsewhere in the region. Overnight interest rates charged to banks jumped to as high as 300 per cent, as authorities sought to defend the Hong Kong dollar — pegged for the past 14 years to the US dollar.

Overnight on Wednesday, the Hang Seng tumbled 1,211 points to 10,426 — a sharper fall even than in 1987 — sparking panic in London and New York when markets opened on Thursday. The FTSE 100 tumbled 222 points at one stage, slipping below 5,000, while the Dow Jones industrial index dipped nearly 230 points. A suicide in Hong Kong brought chilling echoes of the 1929 Wall Street Crash, although some semblance of calm returned to world markets yesterday. The three UK-quoted shares most exposed to Hong Kong — HSBC, Standard Chartered, and Cable & Wireless — were among the worst affected. HSBC was toppled from its perch as the UK's biggest company by market capitalisation, passing the honour to BP, the oil company.

Conflicting signals from the Government over economic and monetary union (EMU) was the third unforeseen factor that fuelled a rerun of October 1987. Reports that the Government was moving towards an early decision to join EMU were played down by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, leaving puffed-up dealers somewhat deflated. Word that Britain was now unlikely to join a single currency during the lifetime of this Parliament did nothing for shares. Tony Blair even endured one or two catcalls during a visit to the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe). Officials at Liffe insisted they heard nothing but cheers.

All this left the latest accountancy mega-merger rather in the cold. KPMG announced plans to tie the knot with Ernst & Young, creating the world's largest professional services firm, with fees of £11.25 billion. Two former executives of Landhurst Leasing were jailed for taking kickbacks. Prudential Corporation was rebuked over mis-selling of pensions, and RJB Mining saw its shares crash to a record low. It was the sort of week in which one should have stayed in bed.



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Euro good for City in any event, says George

By Richard Miles
Banking Correspondent

EDDIE GEORGE, the Governor of the Bank of England, said yesterday the introduction of the euro would represent an opportunity rather than a threat for the City of London, even if the UK did not join the first wave of economic and monetary union in 1999.

Mr George said the main impact of the euro on financial activity would be to encourage broader and more liquid markets where they are currently fragmented because they are denominated in different European currencies.

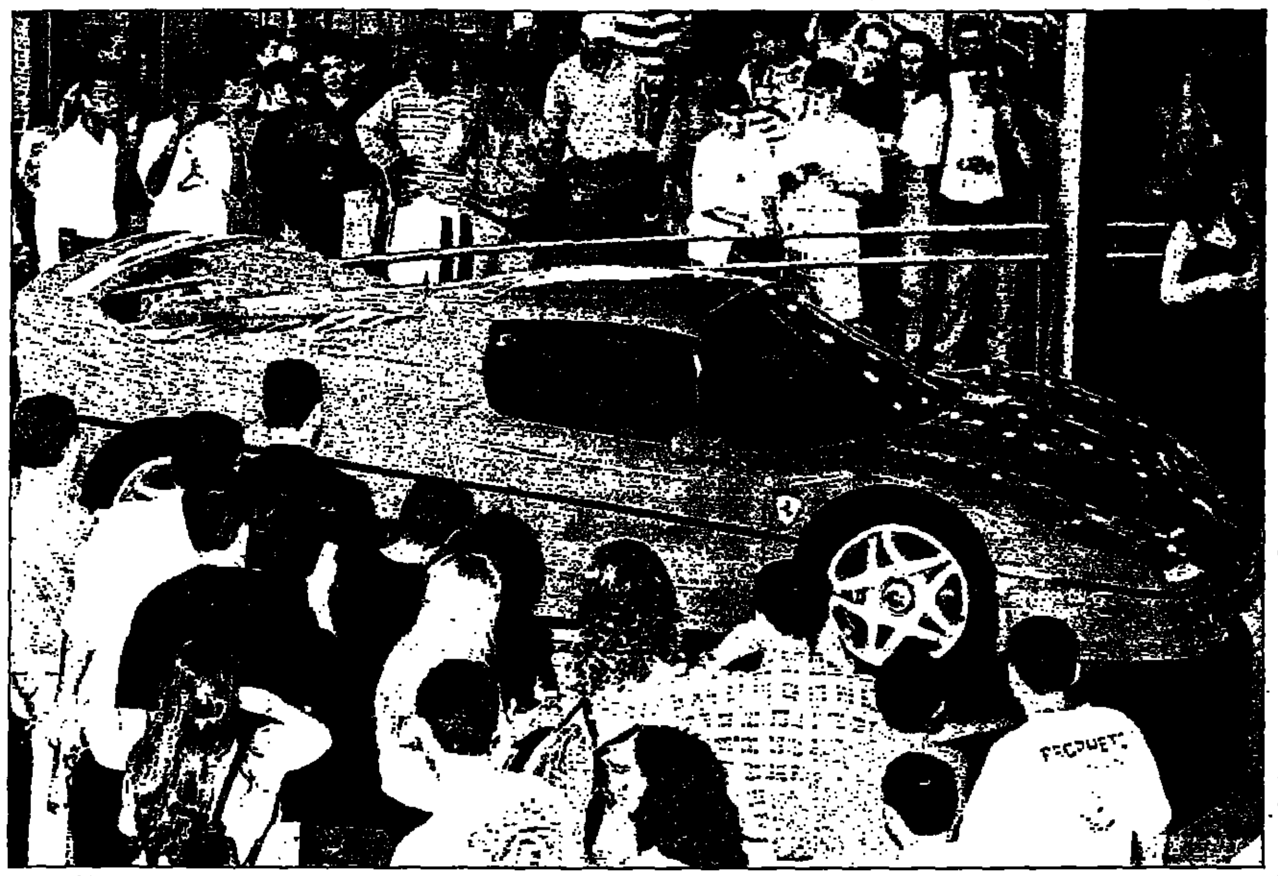
"The City of London thrives on liquid markets regardless of the currency — and it will thrive on the euro whether the UK is in or out," he said. "I have no doubt whatever that there will be a vigorous euro-euro market in London, come what may.

"The reality is that the location of financial activity does not depend on the local currency. It will continue to be carried on wherever it can most conveniently, efficiently and profitably be carried on."

Mr George also told delegates at the Royal Institute of International Affairs Conference that he welcomed increasing financial activity in Frankfurt, Paris, Milan or Amsterdam because this would result in increased activity in London. "The City is a major European, not simply a national asset," he said.

Countering criticism that UK financial institutions were unprepared for the introduction of the euro, Mr George said there was growing evidence that banks and insurance companies were now taking the necessary steps to ensure readiness.

The Governor said the banking settlement system that came into operation last spring was being developed to work in the euro. If the UK were to join, the UK sterling system would effectively become a euro system. A parallel system was also under development in case Britain stayed out.


Ferrari launching its F50 model at the Brazil Motor Show last week. The company is expanding into leisurewear in Britain

Ferrari plans drive into menswear

By Sarah Cunningham

FERRARI, the Italian sports car firm, hopes to capitalise on its success on this year's Formula One racing circuit by launching a men's leisurewear range at top British department stores.

The range with the Ferrari insignia is being put together by Nice Man Merchandising, part of BMG, which holds the licence for Ferrari merchandise. Nice Man is in talks with a number of department stores, including Selfridges, Harrods and Lillywhites. It hopes to launch in February.

There is already a range of Ferrari clothing being sold to Formula One fans and through catalogues. The new range will be more in the style of Timberland and Gant, Andrew Walton, marketing manager of Nice Man, said.

Ferrari is also working on plans to launch a chain of stand-alone shops.

OFT pressed for quick action over rogue mortgage lenders

By Gavin Lumsden

NIGEL GRIFFITHS, Minister for Consumer Affairs, has urged John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, to act swiftly against rogue mortgage lenders, as it emerged that the OFT was still taking legal advice on guidelines it issued three months ago.

In July Mr Bridgeman threatened to strip lenders and brokers of their consumer credit licences if they continued to exploit vulnerable borrowers with exorbitant interest rates and redemption penalties. In particular he highlighted the use of dual interest rates, which punish late-paying borrowers with a higher rate of interest, and rule 78, a calculation for redemption penalties that was originally designed for short, unsecured loans and which has been misused by some lenders.

Mr Bridgeman promised to review the situation in September.

This week, addressing the first UK conference for what are known as sub-prime (ie non-high street) lenders, Geoffrey Horton, the Office of Fair Trading's Director of Consumer Affairs, repeated the pledge to stamp out the practices wherever they were found. In his opinion, he said, loans arranged on these terms were legally unenforceable. He promised revised guidelines would be issued in a few weeks and said that the OFT had written to Mr Griffiths urging him to review the law around rule 78.

However, he added that the OFT was seeking legal advice on whether loans issued before July had to comply with the guidelines.

But Mr Griffiths said he had raised the issue of rule 78 with the OFT in May, July and August and had understood that it would not be used again.

Mr Griffiths said: "The message I want to convey to the OFT, and anyone else, is that I want to see the abuses sorted out. Any legal advice they are seeking should be done speedily as the public's patience is being exhausted with the abuses of lenders who are charging extortionate rates of interest and are forcing people to lose their homes. I await the Director-General's review with interest."

One legal expert expressed surprise at the OFT's delay. Under Unfair Terms in Consumer Contract legislation, passed in 1994, practices such as dual interest rates and rule 78 are open to legal challenge.

Energy policy review as coal outcry grows

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE Cabinet is to examine energy policy amid the growing controversy over the future of the coal industry. A paper on energy is to be looked at by the Economic Policy Committee of the Cabinet in a move which could trigger a wholesale review.

News of the paper, which is thought to be up for discussion in the next few weeks, will increase the calls from coal industry supporters for a radical overhaul of energy. The Government has been increasingly criticised for washing its hands of coal as the industry faces tough negotiations on new contracts with the generators and as environmental commitments further the dash for gas.

This week shares in RJB, the largest independent coal producer, slumped 25 per cent on fears for the industry's future. A backbench coal pressure group of Labour MPs has been formed as pressure on the Government grows.

RJB to spend £50m on lifting Australian stake

By our industrial correspondent

RJB MINING, the troubled UK coal mining company, is close to spending £50 million to increase its shareholding in CIM, the Australian open-cast mining company.

RJB, whose shares have fallen sharply in London over concern about the prospects for coal mining in Britain, is likely to lift its 12 per cent holding in CIM to nearly 50 per cent to help to fund pit purchases. Yesterday CIM struck an agreement with Exxon to buy one mine, and stakes in two others, in a deal that is expected to be completed next year.

RJB's stake-building plan will be put to CIM shareholders on Thursday, but the UK mining company has an option to buy up to 48.8 per cent of CIM by next June. RJB is currently in the middle of crucial talks with UK electricity generators for new contracts and is thought to be keen to extend its interest in Australia.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Members fail to claim £7m of B&W shares

MORE than £7 million worth of shares are still unclaimed after the Bristol & West Building Society takeover. The society, taken over by the Bank of Ireland in a £600 million deal this summer, said around 23,000 eligible members had not yet claimed their entitlement of 250 preference shares each. They failed to meet the share registration deadline of July 21 but can still claim their shares up to three years after the first day of trading.

The takeover meant that cash windfalls paid directly into the accounts of most of the 1.1 million building society members. But 320,000 more members — mortgage holders and savers with accounts for less than two years — were only eligible for the 250 preference shares. A Bristol & West spokesman said a total of 27,000 people failed to meet the July 21 deadline. Since then the society had been contacted by 4,000 of them. An overall total of more than £1.2 billion in windfall payouts is still unclaimed after other recent building society flotations.

Energy Group expands

THE ENERGY GROUP has entered a three-way deal to buy a coal-fired power station in Turkey for £78 million. The Energy Group, through its subsidiary Peabody, has a 25 per cent stake in the purchase. Its partners are Koc, which has a 50 per cent holding, and NRG which as 25 per cent in the Kangal station in central Turkey. Derek Bonham, chairman of The Energy Group, said: "This project is a further step in the realisation of The Energy Group's strategy to develop as an international, integrated energy company."

Penna earnings rise

PENNA HOLDINGS, the training and recruitment company, reported pre-tax profits of £1.6 million for the six months to September 30, compared with an adjusted £745,000 in the first half of the previous year. Earnings were 10.1p a share, compared with 8.5p. The interim dividend rises to 1.2p a share, from 1p. Reported profits for the first half of 1996 included an exceptional charge of £1.4 million against restructuring, which left a pre-tax loss of £655,000.

Dockers stand firm

NO MORE than three of the 329 dockers involved in the picketing of Mersey Docks and Harbour will accept the £28,000 payoff offered to them yesterday, union officials said. Bobby Morton, one of the shop stewards, said: "We were picketing this morning, and all the people I spoke to said they wouldn't be accepting the offer. This is the fifth in a series of final offers, and we'll stay here for the rest of our lives if we have to." However, Mersey Docks and Harbour insisted: "This is the final offer. After today, matters are closed."

AH Ball losses continue

SHARES in AH Ball, the building and construction group, fell 2p, to 11½p, after Sir James Harvie Watt, the chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that the rate of new order intake has been "disappointingly low", despite good volumes of work from the core business and a reduction in overheads. He also told shareholders that margins remain under "severe pressure". Sir James said that the consequence of such trading conditions has been a continuance of losses in the first half of the year that ends in March 1998.

VW refund set at £31m

VOLKSWAGEN, the German auto manufacturer, must pay back DM90.7 million (about £31.2 million) in compensation to end its fight with the European Union over subsidies for an east German factory. The long-running dispute involves illegal subsidies the carmaker received from the east German state of Saxony to help to finance investments at its plants in Mosel and Chemnitz. The issue was complicated when the commission discovered that Volkswagen was exceeding capacity levels agreed with the commission.

Hitachi Credit higher

HITACHI CREDIT (UK), the finance arm of the Japanese trading giant floated on the British stock market in July, raised pre-tax profits by 47 per cent to £3.2 million in the six months to September 30 on sales up 26 per cent to £35.6 million. Earnings rose 25 per cent to 6.6p a share. A maiden interim dividend of 1.7p will be paid. UBS, the house brokers, forecast a full-year pre-tax profit of £7.5 million. Hitachi Credit said that its main markets are both buoyant and dynamic. The shares rose 3p to 152½p yesterday.

Growing economy opens door to interest rate rise

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

THE British economy showed few signs of flagging in the autumn, leaving the door open to another rise in base rates next month.

Gross domestic product grew 1 per cent in the third quarter, exactly the same pace as in the second. However, year-on-year growth rose to 3.9 per cent in the third quarter, from 3.5 per cent in the second, according to preliminary figures from the Office for National Statistics.

The next meeting of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee is on November 6 and it is expected to consider the arguments for another tightening of monetary policy.

The case is not clear-cut, given a number of slightly weaker forward-looking indicators of economic activity published recently, and also tentative evidence in yesterday's figures that the booming services sector appears to be slowing down a touch. Services, which account for nearly two thirds of the economy, grew an estimated 1 per cent in the third quarter, having increased 1.2 per cent in the previous two.

However, economists cautioned that the services figure may have been depressed by unusually weak retail sales in September, put down in part to the period of national mourning for Diana, Princess of Wales.

Separate figures yesterday provided a mixed picture on trade. Britain's trade deficit with the rest of the world was £513 million in August, compared with £450 million in July. This was much narrower than expected.

However, the deficit of £779 million with non-European Union countries in September, which compared with a shortfall of £359 million in August, was much wider than expected.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
Who is the most 'overpaid' chief executive among Britain's top 100 companies and who is the most 'underpaid'?
For the answers see Business, tomorrow

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.43	2.26	New Zealand $	2.78	2.54
Austria Sch	21.48	19.82	Norway Kr	12.29	11.35
Belgium Fr	63.19	58.23	Portugal Esc	308.53	286.50
Canada $	2.402	2.214	S Africa Rd	8.44	7.49
Cyprus Cyp£	0.899	0.828	Spain Pta	256.78	238.00
Denmark Kr	11.67	10.78	Sweden Kr	13.27	12.17
Finland Mkk	9.26	8.51	Switzerland Fr	2.56	2.34
France Fr	10.22	9.44	Turkey Lira	306987	286789
Germany Dm	3.07	2.83	USA $	1.742	1.598
Greece Dr	483	444			
Hong Kong $	13.47	12.27			
Iceland	128	108			
Ireland Pt	1.17	1.08			
Israel Shk	6.13	5.48			
Italy Lira	3017	2780			
Japan Yen	213.23	195.70			
Malta	0.674	0.615			
Netherlds Gld	3.470	3.175			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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Nail-biting wait for PDFM

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

By Monday morning many a set of City fingernails will have taken on the manicure modelled by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, when he switched on the new Stock Exchange electronic order book. With stock markets switched off for the weekend, investors must endure an agonising stay in limbo land before learning whether the long-awaited crash really is upon us. Chewing nails down to the quick would be one of the more moderate responses to the phoney calm.

Yesterday's erratic market movements created total confusion. On Thursday night, with Hong Kong's Hang Seng having plummeted and the FTSE blazoning its biggest points fall in a decade, the trend seemed clear. But clarity clouded rapidly as the Hang Seng regained some of its lost ground and the FTSE started heading back up again. By the end of play, with the FTSE down 21 points, confusion was the predominant reaction.

But there was disappointment, too, in some quarters. At PDFM, the fund manager, Thursday's stock market slump had been greeted with undisguised elation. The firm's much publicised stance that the stock market is hugely over-valued seemed about to be vindicated. Tony Dye and his colleagues retired to their beds happy that night. Friday morning must have been absolutely ghastly for them as the FTSE struggled upwards once more. Just two weeks ago PDFM had gathered together its clients at a London conference centre to tell them why the firm was sticking to its controversial investment strategy. There was the dash of *mea culpa*, now in vogue with Tory politicians but not Labour spin doctors, and almost inescapable in PDFM's case. "In the last couple of years we have failed to meet your expectations by not meeting the objectives you have set us," admitted Paul Meredith, the fund manager's chairman.

Being significantly underweight in equities has been an expensive strategy in the past few years. Tony Dye steadfastly reiterated his belief in value investment, insisting that equities bought at high prices would disappoint, a stance that logic, and experience, suggest will be true over time. But the question for PDFM's clients, and those of other similarly inclined houses such as Gartmore, is how long they would have to wait for the statement to be proven. Although Mr Dye insisted "it's not a crash that we need but a return to favour for value", without a crash his funds will still look like losers.

Yesterday evening, opinions were split as to whether this is crash or mere correction. Ironically, the chances are that if Hong Kong comes into the first category, then New York and London may be helped towards the second by the weight of money that could be transferred out of the former colony.

Whether it be crash or correction, once the tumble has halted there will then be value to be found in some of PDFM's stocks, but by no means all.

Taking revenge on the bank manager

On Tuesday the new super-regulator for the City will be formally introduced to its constituents. There has been much speculation over the name to be accorded to this august body, and at last this is to be revealed, together with some of the details as to how Howard Davies intends it to operate.

For the moment, all but the name must remain in the realm of theory, for the new organisation only leaps into action after the new Banking Act comes into force in the year 2000. This leaves plenty of time for systems to be sorted out and chains of command plotted and given the scope of this super-SIB's remit, the months may all be necessary. But the timescale also brings its own problems, since the existing system of multi-authority regulation has to be fully functional while the new one is knocked into shape. Regulators being a somewhat specialist breed, there is a likely shortage of skills to equip both.

A shortage of willing talent is a potentially limiting factor for the shaping of the Super-SIB board. Many believe this should be weighted in favour of public interest members, but those who already sit on the boards of the existing authorities are firmly out of bounds for the recruiters.

Perhaps the Treasury should be deputing someone to fill an empty seat? Word is that this is unlikely to be the case. After all, regulators sometimes fail to please — just imagine some of those conversations Mrs Liddell, the Economic Secretary, has had with the regulators over their approach to the pensions industry's lackadaisical approach to dealing with the mis-selling débâcle. Far preferable, from the Government's point of view, to keep at a distance. "Deniability" remains a sound principle from which to plot a government course.

When it comes to dealing with those it regulates, however, the new authority is keen to press the concept of responsibility.

There is apparently some debate as to the implications of bringing high street banks under the new umbrella. Should bank managers be forced to register individually with the new authority?

This could be particularly relevant since the power to levy fines or disqualify individuals without recourse to the court is almost certain to be included in Super-SIB's armoury.

Disgruntled customers who may be harbouring a grudge against their local bank manager may see in that a tempting route to sweet revenge.

Taking Liberty into a new era

The Stewart Liberty family can claim as their heritage one of the best-known brand names in the world. It has, however, been appallingly under-exploited for decades. The family's control over the company stretched well beyond their shareholding and saw Liberty offspring planted in important posts to which they were ill-suited.

Brian Myerson and Julian Treger, the South African investment team who have the same ideas about value investing as PDFM and sometimes appear rather niftier at spotting it, highlighted the languishing attractions of Liberty and their efforts helped to secure boardroom changes. The new team started off well, closing the smaller provincial shops and pulling out of France. But the full potential of the extraordinary Regent Street store, its products and reputation remain untrawled. There is an archive of designs, consigned carelessly and uncatalogued to a warehouse by the former directors, which could be the makings of a new fortune for the group.

The share price has been indicating a lack of faith in the new regime's ability to capitalise on the legacy. They could argue that they need longer to make an impression, although that would not fend off a bidder. If the Stewart Liberty family is anxious to regain influence over the company, outside shareholders have every reason to resist. Liberty is a brand with heritage but does not need to step backwards in time to realise its potential.

Learning curve

TRAINING is at the heart of Government strategy but, as Labour suggested in opposition, it does not trust the Training and Enterprise Councils charged to provide it. They are improving from a bad start but there are still too many bureaucratic patsies. Tecs need to be more accountable, but to business rather than Whitehall. The sooner ministers encourage strong Chambers of Commerce, to take over more Tecs, the better.

Energis deal with MCI gives greater US access

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

ENERGIS, the telecommunications arm of National Grid, has signed an agreement with MCI, the US telephone company, which will enable it to expand its service to the US.

Under the deal Energis, which plans to float in December, will receive international circuits from MCI between the UK and the US. The British company has had an international telecommunications licence since last December and already has capacity in five submarine cables and a relationship with Sprint, the US long-distance operator.

The new agreement with MCI, currently the subject of a three-way bid battle, means that Energis business customers will have the choice of Sprint or MCI pricing packages to the US. About 20 per cent of Energis's international business is with the US.

When Energis, a specialist in advanced telephony and advanced data services, had to go through BT and Mercury for its US connections, the costs were believed to be about 8p a minute. By putting in its own capacity and linking with US operators, the costs have come down to about 1p.

Mike Grabiner, chief executive of Energis, promised recently that he would be "very aggressive" on price.

The pathfinder prospectus for Energis will show that the business generated £97 million in revenues last year and is expected to break even this year before interest, tax and depreciation. About 25 per cent of the company is expected to be offered. Analysts expect the float to value the company at about £1 billion. Talks are continuing on a deal between Energis and Vodafone, one of the UK's four mobile telecommunications groups.

☐ The takeover battle for MCI is turning nasty as GTE and WorldCom, which both trumped BT's agreed bid, traded the first blows (Oliver August writes).

WorldCom could raise its $30 billion offer as early as next week, analysts said, while BT is believed to have formed a behind-the-scenes alliance with GTE to outflank WorldCom. The growing antagonism between rival bidders was triggered by WorldCom claims that GTE faced regulatory problems. Andrew Lipman, WorldCom's lawyer, said GTE could not close its deal for a further year while WorldCom would be done in three months. GTE yesterday strongly rejected these claims.

Analysts said there was a "virtually unanimous expectation" that WorldCom will raise its bid. This could force GTE to consider raising its $28 billion offer and further increase the value of BT's 20 per cent MCI stake. The bids already make this the biggest takeover in corporate history.

Another factor that could force WorldCom into raising its bid is the current stock market downturn. Its stock swap offer will drop in value if WorldCom's volatile share price falls any further.

F&C lures executive from rival

By Richard Miles
Banking Correspondent

FOREIGN & COLONIAL, the fund management group, has lured a top executive from Credit Suisse Asset Management (CSAM) to succeed James Ogilvy, the outgoing chief executive.

Robert Jenkins, chief operating officer of CSAM, will join Foreign & Colonial at the end of the year when Mr Ogilvy becomes chairman.

Yesterday's announcement of Mr Jenkins' appointment follows the merger in July of Bayerische Hypobank, its German parent, with Vereinsbank to form Continental Europe's second-biggest bank. Mr Ogilvy said Foreign & Colonial would develop into the international fund management arm of the combined German bank.

Mackie losses deepen to £5.4m

By Chris Ayres

MACKIE INTERNATIONAL, the troubled Belfast engineering company, yesterday revealed that it had plunged further into the red during the six months to June 30, with pretax losses rising from £4.1 million to £5.4 million.

In spite of the losses, Mackie also announced the acquisition of Rice & Co, a metal castings business, for £1.1 million. It said the purchase would help to strengthen its order book.

Mackie is still being threatened with legal action by a company claiming to represent shareholders over its suprise statement last year that losses would be nearly £7 million greater than expected. Over two years shares in Mackie have plunged from nearly 400p to 20p.

The shareholders' company, called Esop's Fables, yesterday said that it had put forward its case to the Stock Exchange and the Serious Fraud Office. The SFO yesterday confirmed that it had received a complaint but said it had not launched an investigation.

Mackie said its turnover was up 74 per cent from £4.1 million to £7.1 million, with losses per share deepening from 43.4p to 44.6p. No interim dividend will be paid.

Sul Sahota, the company's recently appointed chief executive, said that Mackie had suffered from cash constraints and a lack of customer confidence. He added: "The measures taken to improve trading performance and cashflow, coupled with the commissioning of the new foundry and the related acquisition, enable the board to look forward to a materially improved performance next year."

Bid prompts takeover talk for insurer

By Our City Staff

A MYSTERY buyer emerged with a bid for 10 per cent of National Mutual Holdings, the Australian insurer, igniting speculation of a possible takeover offer worth more than A$4 billion (£1.7 billion).

BZW Australia, the broker, acted for the buyer, amid suggestions that National Australia Bank, the nation's most profitable bank, was behind the manoeuvre.

The move follows this week's announcement that National Mutual (which is 51 per cent owned by Axa-UAP, the French insurer) and Lend Lease Corp, the Australian financial services group, may merge their insurance and fund management arms. The merger would create a A$50 billion fund management powerhouse in Australia to rival Australian Mutual Provident.

Delayed orders route Boeing $696m into red

By Adam Jones

BOEING'S struggle to keep up with unprecedented demand for new aircraft led to a $696 million (£427 million) loss in its third quarter.

Boeing shocked the market on Wednesday when it revealed that the quarter's performance would be driven into loss by a $1.6 billion pretax charge to sort out production problems, including raw material and parts shortages, and the difficulty of integrating thousands of new "boom-ime" employees. The Seattle company was forced to halt 747 and 737 jet production lines earlier this month.

The third-quarter loss, against a $466 million profit in the same period of 1996, equates to a 72 cents a share deficit. Wall Street analysts were expecting a figure closer to 60 cents, according to a survey yesterday. The stock was trading at $48¾, down $5/16 before lunch.

In the third quarter, Boeing recorded sales of $11.4 billion, compared with $9 billion in the corresponding 1996 period. It delivered a total of 89 aircraft, compared with 65.

A turbulent third quarter equates to 72 cents a share loss

"Unplanned production inefficiencies" associated with the next-generation 737 accounted for $700 million of the $1.6 billion exceptional charge, it revealed yesterday. Thomas Basacchi, Boeing's European vice-president, said that he hopes the production problems will be fully resolved in mid-1998. Boeing said the third-quarter deficit was also due to higher research and development expenditure, a higher tax rate and losses from the Douglas Products Division.

The merger with McDonnell Douglas, completed on August 1, led to $99 million expenses in the quarterly figures.

British Steel loses bid to outlaw subsidies

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

BRITISH STEEL has lost a bid to outlaw subsidies given to European competitors, after legal action was quoshed yesterday by a European Union court.

The company, which started action two years ago against European Commission-backed subsidies to a Spanish company and an Italian manufacturer, may appeal to the European Court of Justice.

British Steel's action had called for the Commission's approval of state aid worth £3.5 billion to be declared outside the remit of the Steel Aid Code and therefore illegal. Its case was backed by other steelmakers, who took parallel action complaining about subsidies for companies in Germany and Portugal. Those actions were also dismissed.

In the ruling the European Court of First Instance noted that subsidies were meant to rationalise the steel industry and preserve jobs in areas of high unemployment.

British Steel said: "Obviously we regret very much that the court did not support the company's legal interpretation of the treaty ... British Steel will decide whether to appeal when it has studied the full text of the judgment."

City police and FBI join forces

By Jon Ashworth

THE Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) put on a public display of force with the City of London Police yesterday in the latest offensive in the fight against international white-collar crime.

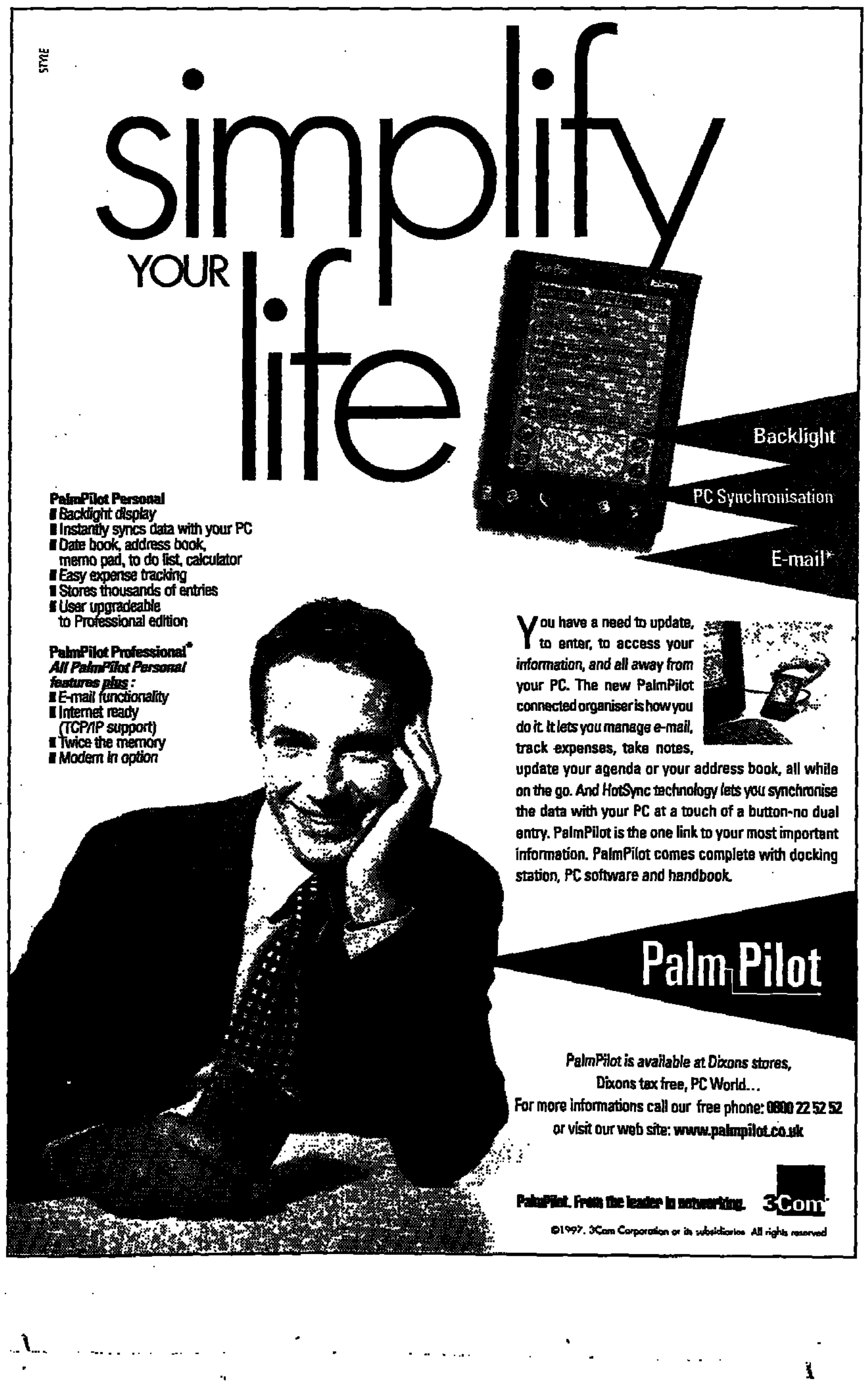
The usually camera-shy FBI has teamed up with the City police and Ernst & Young, the accountant, to finance a racy new video, *A Meeting of Minds*, aimed at alerting businesses to the perils of fraud. The video, produced at a cost of £90,000, is available free to companies and makes for gripping viewing, complete with shady East Europeans and slick-haired City entrepeneurs.

Filmed in London and New York, the video demonstrates the ease with which computers can be manipulated, potentially spelling disaster for those whose compliance systems prove lacking. William Taylor, the City police commissioner, said: "The main purpose of this hard-hitting video is to demonstrate that fraud is not inevitable; relatively simple steps, conscientiously applied, will make a difference. However, ignore basic precautions and the result can be catastrophic."

Speaking on behalf of the FBI, John E Guido, legal attaché at the American Embassy in London, said the growth of computer-related crime had increased pressure on law enforcement and business organisations. The video will be distributed through 56 FBI field offices in America, as well as to the UK business community.

An estimated $300 billion is lost to fraud every year in the US alone. Ernst & Young says that 75 per cent of companies have suffered at least one fraud in the last five years.

Emerging economies, including those in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, are thought to be particularly at risk from computer fraud. Many of these are supplied with the latest technology, creating opportunities for sophisticated criminals. In addition, problems of corruption in the police and judiciary can impede investigations in these economies.



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Man of glass with a crystal clear strategy

IN THE HOT SEAT

DR PAOLO SCARONI

Born: 1946.
1968: Bocconi University
1968-71: Chevron
1972: MBA Columbia.
1972-73: McKinsey
1973: Saint Gobain
1985: Vice-president, Techint
1996: Pilkington director
1997: Chief executive, Pilkington.

If people saw what I do every day, they would think I am crazy," says *Paolo Scaroni,* chief executive of Pilkington, *the British glass company he was* brought in to shake up last spring. Since then he has travelled non-stop to "walk the talk" at Pilkington's factories in Australia, the Americas, China, and through Europe to discover how to bring it alive again.

If they knew that Scaroni has enough money not to work and that he offered to work for Pilkington for no salary, only share options, they might think he was even pottier.

That is Scaroni for you. "To work is to live," he cries. "Success is the real freedom. If you're not successful, then you'll be scared, scared about losing your job and your esteem."

A tall, broad-set, northern Italian, Scaroni has fire in his belly and that sophisticated confidence that most industrialists would die for. He is a glass man rather than an Italian, that genus of cosmopolitan executive polished by an MBA, McKinsey, five languages, and years jet-setting for some of Europe's biggest glass companies, such as Saint Gobain and Techint. Now he is running an *international company which happens to have its headquarters in Lancashire, but which he plans to* make competitive again.

His arrival at St *Helens has* rattled a number of the older guard as he has stripped away many of management's sacred cows. Slowly the natives are coming back on side, but he has said the HQ still needs to halve its size and double its power.

Next Wednesday, Scaroni hopes to persuade long-suffering investors that his fire can work for them. With half-year figures he will present a review of the £1.5 billion-turnover building products operation. Analysts predict this will involve write-offs of £200 million, the sale and closures of many divisions, and job losses. As many as 4,000 jobs out of 39,000 worldwide could go.

Scaroni cannot talk about the review, but his strategy is crystal clear. He has never shied from being ruthless — at Saint Gobain he sliced the workforce from 6,000 to 2,000 in two years. First, Pilkington has to be made more competitive, he says. "Pilkington has 6,000 arms at the moment — I want 3,000 brains." He also wants a new culture, a kind of international Coca-Cola style. "There is *no brain big enough* to make different strategies work in all *these countries at any one time. If I* had Lee Ioccoca to run each division, *it would be different. I'm not capable* of doing this, *nor* is anyone else, so *you have to streamline,"* he says.

"Pilkington's customers have no *loyalty* to us so we must make sure they know that they get complete quality and safety from us," he says. Secondly, staff must have a sense of purpose. Thirdly, he says, there is huge potential in the glass market, which is growing at 4 per cent per annum. Countries such as Brazil are growing at 10 per cent. There is also more to exploit in research and Scaroni has set up a new R&D fund.

Finally, there is fun. "We must also laugh together. You have to have time for laughter," he says. The fun factor caught the eye of Sir Nigel Rudd, Pilkington's chairman, when he was visiting the Italian SIV glassmaker in Venice in 1994. SIV was a joint venture between Pilkington and Techint, and Rudd *could* feel the factory, run *by* Scaroni, was "humming".

Rudd brought Scaroni in to run Pilkington's automotive glass division *last year but* when *it* became clear that changes in the overall *group* were *not happening as fast as* they should, Rudd asked him to take over as chief executive.

Scaroni says: "It was not a 'comploto', not at all. I would have been happy to wait. I think Rudd knows I understand this business. I don't care what people think about me. I want to make money for them, and if I do, they will love me. If I don't, then I have failed."

Rudd has put himself on the line with Scaroni. He has said that if their strategy over the next two years does not work, then he will go too.

Scaroni adds: "Nigel likes me. He has brought me into Pilkington, but if I fail, then as chairman he will fire me immediately. That is what I expect." Adding: "Simul stabunt, simul cadent" (which simply means, 'Together we stand, together we fall').

"Have I convinced you?" he asks with a twinkle.

MARGARETA PAGANO

Paolo Scaroni was willing to work for no salary

Ferragamo family take steps to keep business on successful path

Jon Ashworth on the formula that ensures the ongoing prosperity of an Italian fashion enterprise

Family businesses have a habit of making a mess of things, especially when shoes are involved. Think of C&J Clark, maker of Clarks shoes, which came close to tearing itself apart five years ago. The 1,000-strong Clark family has turned to outsiders to help steer it on the unifying path to improved profits.

But Ferragamo, another family-owned business engaged in the making of shoes, has so far managed to tread a remarkably successful path. All the ingredients for trouble are there: several siblings, dozens of grandchildren waiting in the wings and a product based on design, which generally indicates the dangerous presence of artistic temperament. It could be poised to provide a re-run of the Gucci saga, in which family rifts almost destroyed one of the world's best-known luxury brand names. Instead, the Ferragamos appear to have things splendidly under control. Harvard Business School assigns Ferragamo as a case study in how a family-owned company should be run. And, despite pressure to follow the revitalised Gucci onto the stock market, Ferragamo's avowed intention is to remain a happy family company.

Salvatore Ferragamo, who was born in 1898 to a poor family in the village of Bonito, south of Naples, made his name as "shoemaker to the stars", counting Mary Pickford and Rudolph Valentino among his early customers. In the 1920s, as Hollywood began to roll, Salvatore moved to Los Angeles, where he worked with most of the leading stars and directors. He even took anatomy studies to further his understanding of feet.

Salvatore's labour laid the foundations for a diverse luxury goods group, which in 1996 enjoyed sales of 851 billion lire (£298 million), and has branched out from shoes to embrace scarves, handbags, and other luxury accessories. Ladies' footwear accounts for 38 per cent of sales, and handbags, belts, luggage and small leatherware speak for 31 per cent. Some 41 per cent of sales are in North America, with 33 per cent in Europe and 26 per cent in the Far East. Wealthy young Thais and fashionable Hong Kong Chinese are big buyers of luxury goods, hence the plunge in the share price of LVMH this week. Louis Vuitton luggage is what the status-conscious Asian likes to pack.

Salvatore returned to Italy in 1936, and settled in Florence, continuing to cultivate the American market from afar. He purchased the Palazzo Feroni, one of the most beautiful Florentine monuments, and made it his base, welcoming a myriad stars.

A Ferragamo family gathering: Ferruccio, back row left, Massimo and Fulvia; Fiamma, centre row left, and Leonardo; Giovanna, front row left, and Wanda

Salvatore died in 1960, leaving his widow, Wanda, now 75, who runs Ferragamo with the help of her six children, and has 20 grandchildren waiting in the wings. Add in a generation or two, and there will be scores of Ferragamos staking a claim to the company's fortunes. The big question is whether the tightly-knit family group will succeed in transmitting its values and goals to the next generation.

Signora Wanda, as she is known to employees, has done a remarkable job in holding it all together. One safeguard is a set of rules for grandchildren who want to enter the business. They must have gone to university, and gained experience working for another company. Not all the Ferragamo grandchildren will join, but they will hold shares.

Lawyers are working on a "family pact" aimed at keeping equity within the family should any sibling choose to sell up. Wanda and her children own 100 per cent of the shares, and are firmly opposed to going public. Ferragamo has enjoyed sales growth of 25 per cent to 40 per cent per annum for the past six years despite weak economies in Europe and Japan, pointing to the success of the family formula.

After Wanda, the next key player is Ferruccio, the eldest son, and chief executive. His sister, Fiamma, is vice-president, looking after ladies' footwear, handbags, luggage and small leatherware. Giovanna supervises the ladies' *prêt-a-porter* sector. Fulvia deals with accessories, including scarves, ties, beach towels and costume jewellery. Leonardo has specific responsibility for France, Japan and Hong Kong. Massimo, the youngest, runs Moda Imports, which distributes Ferragamo in North America.

In July 1996, the company took control of Emanuel Ungaro, the French *haute couture* house known for coquettish dresses and sensual perfumes. Ferragamo is believed to have paid about £40 million for 51 per cent of Ungaro, which continues independently.

So to the next generation. Ferruccio, 51, has left his five children under no illusions: "My boys have been told since they were very young that I will never agree to let them enter the company unless they meet special requirements. They must have a good degree. They must gain experience in another company."

Will the next generation succumb to the lure of the stock market, eager to unlock the value of their investments? Ferruccio says: "People say to us, why not float? We always say, the company is solid, healthy, has a good base, is profitable ... We will be like a large collection of shareholders in a private company."

The formula is likely to remain gospel — at least while Wanda and Ferruccio remain in charge. After that, the Ferragamos could well become Italy's answer to *Dallas*, riven by machismo and intrigue. Hollywood would expect nothing less.

Watchdog day

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

THERE are some nervous people at the various City regulatory bodies this weekend. Tuesday sees the launch of the new City super-regulator. There are fears that Gordon Brown's little playmate Charlie Whelan, so renowned for his Jamesian prose style, may mark the launch with a policy statement which has nothing to do with City regulation. Which would be a shame for all those regulators who have been waiting for months for their moment of glory.

Incidentally, I hear that Howard Davies and the three new heads of the new regulator are now known among the other frontline regulators as the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Why? Because none of the others expect to survive for long.

● *SHOCKING proof of corruption among fund managers. The following was received by Quality Software Products, a British computer firm, from a Japanese house. "We are doing equity research. Please send your company's annual report and 10K. Thank you." The money was assembled, in unmarked fivers, and shipped to Tokyo. Actually not, because a 10K is apparently the Wall Street equivalent of the annual accounts, although not applicable to British companies. Still, it makes one wonder if, given the size of the average investor relations budget, the original offer was not cheap at the price.*

Trust-worthy?

A COUPLE of weeks ago, I learnt of the imminent departure of three directors, including Gavin Reed, the chairman, from the board of Ivory & Sime Enterprise Capital, the investment trust being turned over by Scottish Value Trust. The story was denied by a spokesman. "It's not true. They would not dare quit ... It's not even likely. It's so far from being a remote possibility." Reed too, a man whose words I had no reason to doubt, issued a similar denial.

A week later Reed and his two colleagues resigned. I will not dignify the junior minion with a name. But he knows who he is, and Reed should perhaps be more careful in future about the company he keeps.

● *"LAUNCHING the new look" is the headline to a series of glossy advertisements for computer professionals from Sainsbury's. The model on the ad is dressed in a black evening gown and clutching a lorgnette. The bottom half of her body transforms, through clever graphics, into a cabbage. Yes, a cabbage. Long live the new look — half woman, half cabbage. No, I have no idea what it means either. But I wish someone would tell me.*

Big switch

WHO said this? A clue. It was last month, on the merger between Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse to create a huge accountancy monolith. "Size isn't everything. The ability to provide an excellent and seamless service has more to do with culture ... and a merger of two large organisations does not necessarily make that easier."

And who else said, rather churlishly: "There was no client or market pressure for a merger of this scale. It was probably a defensive move."

The first came from Nick Land, senior partner at Ernst & Young, the second from Colin Sharman, senior partner of KPMG, within days of each other last month. Since when Ernst & Young and KPMG have announced their own mega-merger.

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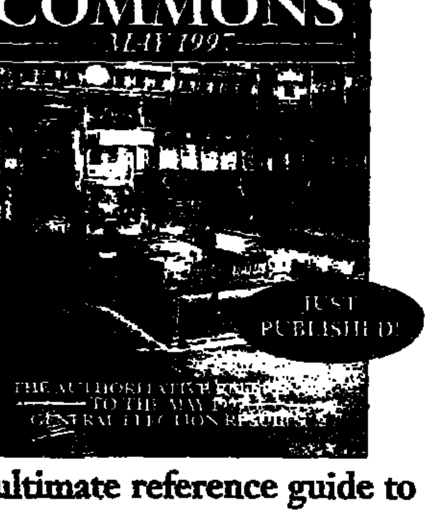

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Plunge in futures points to further blood-letting

Capital Radio DJ Chris Tarrant. Shares in the station held steady at 519p despite a drop in audience reach

TRADERS in London are bracing themselves for another blood-letting session when financial markets start trading on Monday after the weekend break.

Far from riding out the storm, it looks as if yesterday was just a brief lull for City investors. Last night all eyes were anxiously focused on Wall Street, where investors remained clearly worried about events in the Far East. The Dow Jones industrial average saw an early 91-point lead wiped out, to be replaced with a 122-point deficit in little more than an hour.

By contrast, there was nothing to suggest anything was amiss at the close of business in London, where the FTSE 100 index ended the week on a reasonably steady note.

It had taken advantage of the overnight rally in the Hang Seng to post an early 111-point rise. But with New York losing ground it was unable to maintain the early momentum and closed 21.3 down at 4,970.2. Trading proved thin with 691 million shares changing hands as the loss on the week was stretched to 300.9, or 5.7 per cent.

But it was activity down in the futures pit that gave the most cause for concern and suggested that a further sell-off may be on the cards. The December series plunged 215 points during the last hour of trading, from a peak of 5,150 to a low of 4,935 before rallying to close at 4,952.

This brought to an end a week that the City would sooner forget. It had hoped the tenth anniversary of the Great Crash on Monday would pass off uneventfully.

Neither was it the best week for the London Stock Exchange to introduce the new order-driven computer system, though in retrospect the reluctance of fund managers to use it when the going got tough probably limited the losses among leading shares.

Meanwhile, the Chancellor has promised to clear up the uncertainty over the Government's handling of the single currency issue and will be making a statement in the House of Commons on Monday. Fund managers must now spend a nervous weekend awaiting the start of trading in the Far East on Sunday night.

HSBC, which has fallen more than 200p this week and lost its mantle as Britain's biggest company, rallied 2p to £16.12, after £17.30. But there were further losses for **Standard Chartered**, down 19½p at 670p. **Cable & Wireless**, 1p cheaper at 472p and **Inchcape**, 1p off at 243½p.

NatWest Bank eased 3p to 947p, with speculation rife about the future of its investment banking arm. The gossips are adamant that Deutsche Morgan Grenell will make an offer for the business. **Barclays** closed off the bottom, reducing the deficit to 15p at £15.35. Whispers in the Square Mile maintain the sale of BZW is a race between two suitors, Credit Suisse First Boston and Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette. The suggestion was met with "no comment" all round.

The power generators closed mixed, still reflecting the Government's decision to launch an inquiry into electricity pool prices. **National Power** was 4p better at 492p, while **National Grid** put on 8½p at 286½p, but losses were seen in **PowerGen**, 6p to 672p, **Scottish Hydro**, 6p to 441p, and **Scottish Power**, 2p to 430p.

Brokers are continuing to take a healthy view of prospects for **Wolseley**, the builders' merchant, after full-year results on Tuesday. The price rose 10¾p to 515p after several brokers spoke out in the group's favour. ABN Amro Hoare Govett is urging clients to add to their holding, while Dresdner Kleinwort Benson rates the shares a "buy". Kleinwort is also upbeat about **Pearson**, which lifted the price 5p to 780p.

Cazenove, the broker, is believed to be behind a revival in **De La Rue** after recommending it to clients. It closed 20p better at 436p.

Capital Radio held steady at 519p while **Scottish Radio** fell 7p to 389½p. It seems that radio listeners have been abandoning the commercial airwaves in droves during the past three months, with everything from the warm weather to the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, blamed. Audience reach at Capital dropped from 30 per cent to 25 per cent during the period. But the company says it has weathered the storm.

The market's appetite for football clubs is clearly waning. Yesterday it was the turn of Leicester City, which began trading at a discount after a placing of shares at 112p. The price dropped to 87½p before attracting support. It closed at 93½p, a discount of 18½p. A couple of weeks ago **Nottingham Forest** was floated and quickly moved to a discount. It was 1p firmer at 61½p last night.

Ultraframe, this week's other newcomer, continued to make headway after a placing by Barclays de Zoete Wedd at 147p. The price added 7p at 171½p, stretching the week's lead to 24½p.

The speculative buying that lifted **BICC** above the 200p level last week has now evaporated. The price lost a further 4½p to 170½p, after briefly touching 168p, on the back of some cautious comments from Merrill Lynch, the broker, which is urging clients to reduce their holdings.

Reckitt & Colman was also a dull market, tumbling 25½p to 939½p after SBC Warburg, the broker, urged clients to "reduce".

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices ended the week with further modest gains, having underperformed other European markets for much of the day. The latest GDP succeeded in fuelling speculation about the need for a rise in interest rates. In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt closed £⅛ better at £118²⁵⁄₃₂. Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose seven ticks to £118¹⁹⁄₃₂, while Treasury 7 per cent 2002 firmed a tick to £101¹¹⁄₃₂.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street shares made a sharp U-turn by midday as an early rally quickly fizzled out and technology stocks fell on unresolved currency worries in Asia. The midday Dow was 7,752.00, down 95.77 points.

Redland jumped 10p to 347½p amid talk of a possible counter-bid for the troubled building supplies group. Lafarge of France has an offer of 320p a share on the table and is determined to win the day. City talk suggests it may try to negotiate agreed terms of up to 370p a share as part of a knockout blow.

	Current price	Week's change	
HSBC	£16.12	-347p	Hong Kong collapse
Standard Chartered	670p	-110p	Far East casualty
TI Group	593p	-38½p	Brokers downgrade
RJB Mining	184p	-65p	Broker warns on profits
Primesight	136½p	+11p	Director buys shares
Winchester Multimedia	95p	+15p	Shooting Fish benefits
Protean	237½p	+37p	Bid approach
National Power	492p	-69½p	Pool price inquiry
Cookson	256p	+7p	Trading update

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 7752.00 (-95.77)
S&P Composite .... 940.78 (-9.91)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 17363.74 (+212.19)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 11144.34 (+718.04)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index .... 891.35 (+8.95)

Sydney:
AO .... 2561.3 (-53.6)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 4050.87 (-73.61)

Singapore:
Straits .... 1617.81 (-32.06)

Brussels:
General .... 13266.68 (-42.11)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 2849.03 (-7.84)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 1207.10 (+6.40)

London:
FT 30 .... 3316.5 (-10.9)
FTSE 100 .... 4970.2 (-21.3)
FTSE 250 .... 4836.7 (+9.7)
FTSE 350 .... 2410.4 (-7.3)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 .... 2629.84 (-4.85)
FTSE All-Share .... 2361.32 (-6.48)
FTSE Non Financials .... 2393.26 (-8.92)
FTSE Fixed Interest .... 132.74 (+0.09)
FTSE Govt Secs .... 100.14 (+0.03)
Bargains 62801
SEAQ Volume 701.6m
US$ .... 1.6338 (+0.004)
German Mark .... 2.9062 (+0.0141)
Exchange Index .... 102.1 (-0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.4778
£:SDR 1.1932
RPI .... 159.3 Sep (3.6%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX .... 157.8 Sep (2.7%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aggreko	161½	-	1
Buckland Inv Wts	10		...
Buckland Inv	17½		...
Calmgorm Demtl IT	99	+	1
Calmgrm Demtl Wrt	23	+	½
Larchways (155)	171	+	1
Leicester City	93½	+	1
Metalsrussia	95½	-	2
NSB Retail Sys	170½		...
Newsquest (250)	246	-	2
Northern Rock	486	+	7½
Nottingham Forest	61½	+	1
Nycomed Am N/V	2417½	-	17½
SHL Group	286½		...
Solitaire	192½		...
Ultraframe	171½	+	7
Xaar	112½		...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Alvis Units n/p	27		...
Berkeley Group n/p	115	-	1½
Consld Coal n/p (5)	½		...
Dawn Til Dusk n/p	40		...
Jourdan T n/p (45)	5		...
Lavendon n/p (265)	32½	+	5
Quicks n/p (115)	12½		...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Swire Pacific .... 364p (+41p)
Hutch Whamp .... 421½p (+46p)
Blick .... 275p (+14½p)
Jarvis .... 344½p (+18p)
Blacks Leis .... 430p (+20½p)
De La Rue .... 436p (+20p)
JJB Sports .... 580p (+25p)
Abbey Ntl .... 952p (+23p)
AB Food .... 500p (+10p)
Danka Bs Sys .... 707p (+13p)
Caird Gp .... 845p (+15p)

FALLS:
Schrod Korea .... 344½p (-47p)
Car Group .... 183½p (-14p)
FS Cons .... 353p (-12p)
Vendome .... 403p (-12p)
Reuters .... 685p (-17p)
Reed Int .... 576p (-14p)
Lloyds TSB .... 723p (-17p)
Next .... 725p (-13p)
EMI .... 585p (-10p)
BAA .... 552p (-9p)
Hays .... 727p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 26

TEMPUS

The generation game

INDUSTRIAL electricity consumers have been whingeing about the price they pay for juice from the pool. They are about as convincing as a currency trader complaining because he lost money betting against the dollar.

Apparently, big electricity users are annoyed about huge spikes in electricity prices at times of peak use. The concern about the cost of electricity has led some companies to build their own generators, but John Battle, the Energy Minister, has launched a wholesale review of the operation of the pool, the body into which generators bid their capacity on a daily basis.

Few people understand the arcane workings of the pool and most of the generators have agreed contracts with customers outside the pool, which sets its price on the basis of marginal bids made by generators. Such a system is bound to create volatility as a result of weather, breakdowns at particular generators and, famously, French strikes. Industrial users suspect gamesmanship by generators pitching their bids in a way that secures high prices, yet this market is becoming more, not less, crowded — hardly ripe for a cartel.

Electricity users have enjoyed huge cuts in prices since privatisation — down 24 to 30 per cent over the last seven years. That is as it should be, but it is unclear whether this review will secure better prices. In fact the opposite could happen: what power company is likely to build new generating capacity with a pricing review looming? The outcome will be unknown for some three years. High-yielding stocks make good defensive investments and in this market the generators look a very sound buy.

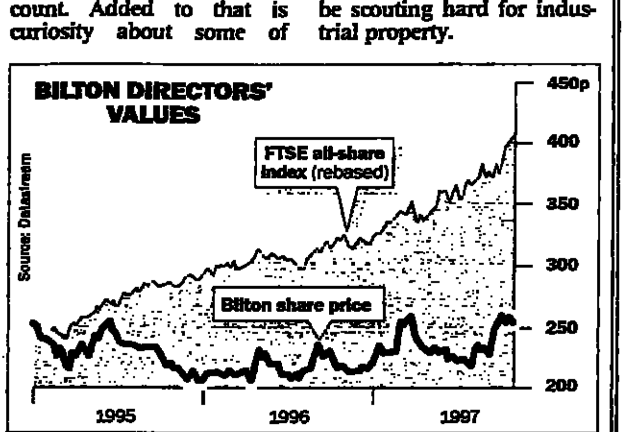
Bilton

EVERY sector of the stock market has its dinosaur, and Bilton is property's distinguished contribution. Bilton is both builder and investor, mainly focused on industrial estates in the South East. It could be a family business; indeed, it once was, under its founder Percy Bilton, who died in 1983. But since then Ron Groom has run Bilton in his own idiosyncratic way, ignored by the City.

Bilton makes money, £18 million per year, and pays a dividend, but the property portfolio is a mystery. Riding in the face of criticism, Bilton continues to publish a director's valuation of the portfolio, seeking reviews only every five years. The net asset value has been falling and, according to the directors, was 312p per share at the end of last December. Yet industrial property rents are on the increase, particularly in London where Bilton has big holdings. Some analysts reckon Bilton's NAV is 340p.

But the shy and retiring Bilton is reluctant to seek verification and, as a result, its shares languish at 263p, a thumping 24 per cent discount. Added to that is curiosity about some of Bilton's assets, which are said to include salmon fishing rights on the River Dee.

Bilton last fended off a bid in 1983, and with 29 per cent in the hands of a family trust it may feel secure. But Laing Properties did not survive with 43 per cent in family hands and MEPC is said to be scouting hard for industrial property.



Alizyme

ALIZYME is a "virtual" biotech company — it's virtually not there. Floated on Aim last year, it had little more than an idea that there was money to be made from drugs to treat obesity. Sir Brian Richards, the British Biotech founder, was persuaded to contribute his name and Alizyme scraped together £5 million.

The company is now thinking about raising another £10 million and is keen to demonstrate progress. Richard Palmer, the chief executive, suggested yesterday that big pharmaceutical companies are fighting to buy the rights to a possible drug to treat mucositis, a gut problem caused by cancer therapy.

Frankly, this is hard to believe. Alizyme claims some promising results in animals but it is still a year away from safety trials on humans. With the odds still heavily stacked against any drug ever reaching the markets, who will pay how much for the rights to what?

As for obesity, Alizyme hasn't even selected its compound and vaguely hopes for something similar to Roche's Xenical. Since the Roche drug has still to be launched, a me-too product will presumably face potential intellectual property problems.

Alizyme is still gazing into the bluest of blue skies. One for those who enjoy Russian roulette.

Tour operators

WHENEVER the travel industry thinks the coast is clear, another obstacle appears. Generally, the problems are self-inflicted. Operators invest in too many holidays and discount like mad at the end of the season. After a particularly vicious bout of price-cutting the industry reined in and reduced capacity resulting in a couple of good seasons.

However, the immediate threat is from an unusual source: regulation. The MMC is due to publish its report on the travel industry and the outcome is unlikely to please tour operators. The issue is vertical integration between the operators and the travel agents. A company like Airtours, which owns Going Places, and Thomson, which owns Lunn Poly, can push the parent's product and at the same time earn commission, effectively a double-dip into the punter's pocket. Given the cut-throat history of the travel trade, a recommendation that agents be sold off seems unlikely but the MMC can still spoil the fun. The issue is likely to be disclosure and a requirement that agents publish their commission could be a serious blow to the recovering margins of tour operators.

Airtours share price fell 9 per cent when the OFT announced the investigation but the stock has soared since then. The holiday is over.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
HORTS (under 5 years)						
116	113⅞	Treas 4¾% 1998	115⅞xd	...	3.99	6.43
103¼	100⅞	Exch 9¾% 1998	100⅞	-⅛	9.78	7.05
101⅝	100⅝	Treas 7¼% 1998	100¼		7.24	6.98
110¼	103⅝	Treas 14% 1998-01	103⅝	-⅛	13.46	6.94
114⅞	107⅛	Treas 15½% 1998	107¼	-⅛	14.42	7.01
108⅝	104⅝	Exch 12% 1998	104⅝	-⅛	11.43	7.05
105¼	102⅝	Treas 9½% 1999	102⅝	-⅛	9.24	7.06
111⅞	105⅝	Exch 12¼% 1999	106⅝	-⅛	11.46	7.02
108⅝	105⅛	Treas 10½% 1999	105⅞	-⅛	9.99	6.97
99⅝	98⅝	Treas 6% 1999	98½	—	6.09	6.90
108¾	106⅛	Conv 10¼% 1999	105⅞	-⅛	9.69	6.98
105½	104¼	Conv 9% 2000	104⅝		8.62	6.90
104⅞	102⅛	Treas 8% 2000	103⅛		7.75	6.82
104⅞	102⅝	Treas 8½% 2000	103¼	+⅛	8.24	7.00
19⅝	114⅛	Treas 13% 2000	114⅞	...	11.33	6.92
12⅞	98⅝	Treas 10% 2001	109⅛		9.16	6.86
01⅞	98⅝	Treas 7% 2001	100⅞	+⅛	6.94	6.75
EDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
02⅞	97⅞	Treas 7% 2002	101¼	+⅛	6.90	6.86
22¼	108½	Treas 9¾% 2002	112⅝	+⅛	8.69	6.74
07⅞	102⅝	Treas 8% 2003	106⅝	+⅛	7.53	6.64
17¼	111¼	Treas 10% 2003	115⅞	+⅛	8.63	6.67
18⅝	113¼	Treas 11½% 2001-04	113⅞		10.18	6.87
39⅞	82⅞	Fund 3½% 1999-04	89⅝	+⅛	3.91	5.43
18⅝	108⅞	Conv 9½% 2004	116 †	+⅛	8.19	6.60
2⅞	94⅞	Treas 6¾% 2004	100⅞	+⅛	6.69	6.55
14¼	104½	Treas 8½% 2005-	111⅞	+⅛	7.80	6.56
2⅞	110⅞	Conv 9½% 2005	116⅞	+⅛	8.14	6.62
0⅞	124⅞	Treas 12½% 2003-05	128⅞	+⅛	9.72	6.68
9⅞	98⅞	Treas 7½% 2006	108⅞	+⅛	7.05	6.56
0⅞	99⅞	Treas 7¾% 2006	107⅞	+⅛	7.29	6.60

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
106½	100⅞	Treas 8% 2002-06	104⅞	+⅛	7.62	6.77
123⅞	115⅞	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121⅞	+⅛	9.65	6.72
116⅛	105⅞	Treas 8½% 2007	113⅞	+⅛	7.49	6.59
107½	99⅛	Treas 7¼% 2007	105⅞	+⅛	6.89	6.53
121⅛	108⅞	Treas 9% 2008	119	+⅛	7.56	6.54
114⅛	101	Treas 8% 2009	111⅞	+⅛	7.16	6.55
99⅞	86⅛	Treas 6¼% 2010	97⅞	+⅛	6.44	6.58
124⅞	108⅞	Conv 9% 2011	121⅞	+⅛	7.40	6.58
125⅞	109⅞	Treas 9% 2012	122⅞xd	+⅛	7.35	6.59
93⅛	80⅞	Treas 5½% 2008-12	91⅞	+⅛	6.02	6.44
112⅞	98⅞	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	110⅞	+⅛	7.01	6.62
LONGS (over 15 years)						
116½	100⅞	Treas 8% 2013	114⅞	+⅛	7.02	6.56
118⅞	101⅞	Treas 8% 2015	115⅞	+⅛	6.90	6.46
126⅞	103⅞	Treas 8¾% 2017	124⅞	+⅛	7.03	6.52
121⅞	101⅞	Tr 8% 2021	118⅞	+⅛	6.75	6.45
UNDATED						
54⅝	43⅞	War Ln 3½%	53⅞	+⅛	6.56	..
38¼	30⅞	Treas 2½%	37⅞	...	6.72	..
59¼	49⅞	Consols 4%	58⅞	+⅛	6.80	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					5%	3%
193½	184⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2001	193⅞	+⅛	3.15	3.45
190⅞	180⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2003	190⅞	+⅛	3.14	3.35
129⅞	117⅞	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	129⅞ †	+⅛	3.11	3.28
203⅞	190	Treas IL 2% 2006	203⅞	+⅛	3.14	3.28
185⅞	170⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2009	185⅞	+⅛	3.11	3.22
193⅞	176⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2011	193⅞	+⅛	3.11	3.21
160⅞	144⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2013	160⅞	+⅛	3.11	3.20
173⅞	153⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2016	173⅞	+⅛	3.11	3.19
167⅞	147⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2020	167⅞	+⅛	3.14	3.20
140⅞	122⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2024	140⅞	+⅛	3.13	3.18
137⅞	119⅞	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	137⅞	+⅛	3.12	3.18

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
	140	19½	23	26	2½	4	5½
5½)	160	7½	11	14½	9½	12	13½
Nat	950	67	86½	104	45½	64½	73½
1½)	1000	45	63½	81	73	92	100
eic	650	67½	80	91	8	17½	23
1½)	700	35	49½	62½	25½	37	43½
Dom	500	29½	40	45	23	29	34
½)	550	11½	19	24	56	59½	64
	550	31½	46	54½	22	31½	32½
l	600	12½	26	32	52	58½	61
ed	550	39½	53½	60½	20	44½	49½
l	600	19	33½	40	62	74½	78½
s	1500	138	165	194½	78	95	113
7½)	1600	98½	115½	145	129½	144	163
	800	49½	66	78½	31½	47½	51
	850	25½	43	56½	60	69	78
	800	49½	72	84	32	40½	48
	900	28	48	59½	59	67½	74
mp.	550	47	65	76½	19	26½	35½
	650	29½	40½	52	44½	51½	60½
	850	83	99½	97½	34½	37	42½
	900	36½	59½	71	48	59	65½
el	160	16	20	22½	4	7½	13
	180	6½	11	13	15½	19½	24
	460	48½	61	69½	23½	30	38
)	500	30	41½	50½	44	51	59
	800	81½	87½	112½	25	40	50½
)	850	53	78½	87	48	63	74
	1250	82	109½	125½	55	75	90½
)	1300	57½	85	110	81	100½	115½
	1600	181½	228	262	122	164	180½
	1700	134	178	215	174	215	232
	650	69	78½	81½	11	18	24
	700	38½	49½	53½	29	40	46
	900	84	95½	112½	22½	41	47½
)	950	54½	68	86	43	64	70
sc.	1000	47½	67½	79	33½	40	51½
	1050	25	43	55	61	67½	78½
	600	51	65	73	14½	22½	28½
	650	24	38	46	37	44	47½
	460	46½	62½	68	18½	22	30½
	500	25½	42	45½	35	40	50½
	950	69	83½	109½	64½	69	82
	1000	49½	61½	84	79½	98½	109½
	650	57½	75	86½	15½	35½	42½
	700	31	48½	64	42	58	68½
	550	66	78	85	15	35	34
	600	39	49	58½	35½	45½	58
	300	23½	38½	44	12	14	20½
	330	15½	23½	29	25	29	35
	460	37½	47	54½	12½	18	25
	500	17½	38½	34½	33	38	45
	417	29½	—	—	16½	—	—
	460	21	—	—	24	—	—
h	575	47	58½	—	28½	39	—
	600	29	44	58	42	51½	55½
	650	79	91½	106	32½	50½	59½
	700	64	68½	82	57	75½	78½
	900	46	63	78	36½	47½	56
(*901½)	950	24½	42	55	69½	75½	84
Vodafone	330	30½	41	48½	14½	17	22
(*345½)	350	17½	28	33½	30	32	35½
Woolwich	280	25	31½	36½	7	12½	16
(*294)	300	13½	20½	26½	16	22	25½
Zeneca	1900	131	165½	210	69½	106	114
(*1937½)	2000	80½	114½	158	115	146	182½
(*348)	360	9½	13	14	18	22	34
R-Royce	220	10½	21½	25	5½	12½	15½
(*222½)	240	3½	13	18½	18½	23½	27
Tesco	450	20	36	48	6½	16½	24
(*475)	500	3½	21	29	30½	37½	45
Utd Bisc	200	13	20	22½	2½	5	8½
(*209)	220	3	10	13	13	14	19

	Series	Calls Nov	Feb	May	Puts Nov	Feb	May
BTR	220	8	20	24½	7	16½	20
(*220½)	240	2½	12½	16	20½	27	32½
Blue Circ	360	16	32	38½	9½	17	24½
(*366½)	390	4½	19	25	27½	33½	41
Br Aero	1600	74½	128	167½	18½	51½	69½
(*1651)	1700	23½	74	114½	65½	99	118
Br Telcom	465	18	30½	—	10	27	—
(*470)	515	3½	12	—	45½	59½	—
Cadbury	600	31	52	61½	8	18	28
(*621½)	650	7	26½	36½	32½	42½	53½
Energy Gp	600	39	46	53	1	10½	8½
(*634½)	650	6	16½	24½	18	26½	28
Gallaher	300	18	28	33½	4½	10½	17
(*317½)	330	4	13½	18½	21	28½	33
GEC	380	11½	24½	37	11½	20	25
(*380)	420	2	12	24	32	37½	42½
Grnd Met	550	35½	48½	60	3½	16	23½
(*579½)	600	7½	22	34½	25½	41	48½
Guinness	550	35½	53	63½	2½	13	20
(*581½)	600	8	25	36½	25½	35	48
Hanson	300	28½	37½	45	3½	7	12½
(*322)	330	12½	22½	29	14½	19½	26½
Imp Tob	360	31½	38	41	1	10	14½
(*388½)	390	10½	17½	24½	10	24½	28
Kingfshr	800	42½	73½	90	11½	31	35½
(*825)	850	18	48	62½	33½	50½	59
Lasmo	260	12½	23½	29	5	12	18
(*268½)	280	4	14	19½	16	22½	28½
Ladbroke	280	18	28½	34	5	11	15
(*291)	300	6	18	23½	14½	21½	24½
LucasVar	200	14	20	28	2	7½	10½
(*210½)	220	3½	11	18	11½	18	21
P&O	700	26½	49	55	10½	24	34½
(*713½)	750	6	25	30	40	51	61
Prudentl	650	35	61½	73	10½	26	37½
(*672½)	700	11	36½	48	35½	51	62½
Rio Tinto	850	90½	63	74	13½	28	45
(*859)	900	10½	39½	51	45½	55½	73
Redland	330	23½	27½	30½	3	8	18½

	Series	Calls Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
BG PLC	260	6½	18½	23½	13½	16	19½
(*262)	280	3½	12	16	25	28	31½
BSkyB	420	27½	44	55	19	30½	35
(*435½)	460	11	27	37½	42½	53½	58½
Br Bio	120	15	24	30	11½	15½	20
(*120½)	130	11	20	26	17½	21	25½
[illegible]	80	8	12½	15	2	5	6½
(*84)	90	3½	8	10	7	10½	11½
Dixons	700	35	59	72½	27½	43½	53
(*700)	750	16	38½	50½	57	72½	81
EMI	540	48½	63½	—	20½	32	—
(*569)	575	34½	51½	—	33½	45	—
Granada	850	34½	53½	73½	27	42½	51
(*850)	900	14½	32	51	57	71½	79
GUS	700	41	62	79½	18	31	37
(*716½)	750	18½	38½	55	44½	58	62
Lloyds TSB	700	58	78½	99	24½	42	53½
(*738)	750	30½	54½	74½	49	67	78½
Lonrho	100	12½	15	17	1½	5	6
(*109)	110	6½	9½	12	5½	10	11
Norwich	330	27	39	43	8	10½	14½
(*349)	360	11½	22½	27½	18	23½	38½
Orange	240	14½	24½	28½	7	12	15
(*246)	260	5½	15	19½	18½	24	25½
Railtrck	900	78	102	122	23½	45½	51
(*947)	950	48	78	97	43	67½	73
Scot Pwr	420	31½	46½	52	12	21½	25
(*433)	460	16	28½	34	33½	42½	48½
Tarmac	120	9½	13	14½	3	5½	9
(*123)	130	5	8	9½	8½	10½	14
Tomkins	300	19	24	32	5	11½	14½
(*310)	330	5½	11	18½	22	27½	30½
Unilever	450	30	44½	52½	10½	17½	24½
(*469)	475	16½	31½	39½	20½	29	36

October 24 Total: 31396 Calls: 14786 Puts: 16610

FTSE INDEX (*4963)

Strike	Calls Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Jun	Puts Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Jun
4800	260½	323½	355½	408½	518½	103½	131½	150	168½	247½
4850	251	287	324½	379½	—	117½	146½	169½	180	—
4900	219½	256½	295	350½	450½	137½	165½	150	210	287
4950	190	225	265½	321	—	158½	186	211	231½	—
5000	158½	195	236½	292	400½	180	208	232½	253½	328
5050	131½	167½	208	263	—	206½	229½	258	277	—
5100	109½	146	187	239	349	235½	259	285	305½	378½
5150	87½	125	166	218	—	266	288	314½	336	—

October 24 Total: 6949 Calls: 4671 Puts: 2278

*Underlying security price

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Dec 97	118-24	118-30	118-10	118-25	49741
Previous open interest 205903	Mar 98	118-12	118-16	118-12	118-24	3433
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Dec 97	101.77	102.25	101.65	102.13	174255
Previous open interest 294008	Mar 98	101.02	101.20	101.02	101.40	219
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Dec 97	111.77	111.92	111.48	111.87	32617
Previous open interest 114563	Mar 98				111.87	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 97	129.96	130.04	129.88	129.98	1456
	Mar 98	129.06	129.06	128.98	129.04	154
Three Mth Sterling	Dec 97	92.64	92.64	92.61	92.62	8503
	Mar 98	92.59	92.60	92.56	92.59	12534
Previous open interest 637451	Jun 98	92.62	92.62	92.58	92.60	11458
Three Mth Euromark	Dec 97	96.16	96.20	96.15	96.18	57532
Previous open interest 1779928	Mar 98	95.82	95.89	95.82	95.88	46410
Three Mth Eurolira	Dec 97	93.82	93.83	93.76	93.81	13353
Previous open interest 478697	Mar 98	94.50	94.51	94.43	94.48	12070
Three Mth Euroyen	Mar 98				99.44	0
	Jun 98				99.39	0
Three Mth Euroswiss	Dec 97	97.83	97.87	97.74	97.84	12654
Previous open interest 186032	Mar 98	97.62	97.65	97.53	97.63	8066
Three Mth ECU	Dec 97	95.37	95.39	95.36	95.39	604
Previous open interest 37020	Mar 98	95.24	95.27	95.24	95.27	334
FTSE 100	Dec 97	5067.0	5149.0	4930.0	4995.0	13869
Previous open interest 74113	Mar 98	5116.0	5191.5	5116.0	5041.5	285

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7 Finance Hse 7½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 8 Low 7⅛ Week fixed: 7¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅞; 3 mth 6⅞. Sell: 2 mth 6⅞; 3 mth: 6⅞.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7⅛-6⅞	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7½-7⅛
Interbank:	7⅛-7½	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7½-7⅛
Overnight: open 7⅛, close 7¼.					
Local Authority Deps:	7⅛	n/a	7¼	7⅞	7⅞
Sterling CDs:	7⅛-7½	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅞-7⅞
Dollar CDs:	5.55	n/a	5.70	5.80	6.08
Building Society CDs:	7⅛-7½	7½-7⅛	7⅛-7¼	7½-7⅛	7½-7⅛

TREASURY BILLS: Applctns: £562m allotted: £100m; Bids: £98.265% received: 53%; Last week: £98.265% received: 24%; Avge rate: £6.9515% last wk £6.9377%; Next week: £100m.

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-5¾	5½-4½
Deutschemark:	3⅛-3¼	3½-3⅛	3⅞-3⅞	3½-3¼	4-3
French Franc:	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3¼	3½-3¼	3⅞-3⅞	3½-2½
Swiss Franc:	2-1½	1⅞-1½	2⅛-1⅞	2⅞-2⅞	2-1
Yen:	½-¼	⅝-⅜	⅞-⅝	4-3⅞	1-par

Bullion: Open $322.90-323.20 Close: $315.70-316.20 High: $323.00-323.50
Low: $315.40-315.90 AM: $321.90 PM: $316.65

Krugerrand: $315.50-317.50 (£192.00-194.00)

Platinum: $418.00 (£255.35) Silver: $4.94 (£3.02) Palladium: $201.00 (£122.80)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Oct 24	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2621-3.2827	3.2729-3.2757	1½-1pr	3-2⅞pr
Brussels	59.720-60.120	59.855-59.957	19-14pr	37-32pr
Copenhagen	11.020-11.093	11.057-11.067	⅛-⅛pr	⅞-⅛pr
Dublin	1.1107-1.1215	1.1164-1.1190	11-5pr	34-28pr
Frankfurt	2.8965-2.9129	2.9045-2.9071	1-⅞pr	2⅞-2⅞pr
Lisbon	294.61-296.56	295.56-295.91	⅛-⅛pr	1½-1⅛pr
Madrid	244.04-245.68	244.87-245.12	47-36pr	139-121pr
Milan	2828.3-2843.9	2833.8-2836.3	17-1pr	58-36pr
Montreal	2.2698-2.2760	2.2732-2.2754	0.70-0.65pr	1.38-1.29pr
New York	1.6333-1.6352	1.6336-1.6346	0.228-0.207pr	0.630-0.602pr
Oslo	11.645-11.702	11.664-11.677	⅛-⅛pr	1-⅛pr
Paris	9.7030-9.7640	9.7305-9.7406	3½-2⅞pr	9-8⅞pr
Stockholm	12.393-12.467	12.416-12.432	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Tokyo	197.85-199.03	198.07-198.27	1½-1⅛pr	3⅞-3⅞pr
Vienna	20.387-20.505	20.443-20.462	⅛-⅛pr	2-1⅞pr
Zurich	2.3999-2.4149	2.4017-2.4048	1½-1pr	3⅞-3pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia 1.4245-1.4255
Austria 12.53-12.54
Belgium (Com) 36.70-36.75
Canada 1.3912-1.3917
Denmark 6.7820-6.7840
France 5.9648-5.9723
Germany 1.7810-1.7814
Hong Kong 7.7300-7.7350
Ireland 1.4610-1.4660
Italy 1737.5-1738.5
Japan 121.12-121.22
Malaysia 3.3850-3.3950
Netherlands 2.0072-2.0077
Norway 7.1428-7.1478
Portugal 181.27-181.37
Singapore 1.5795-1.5815
Spain 150.17-150.27
Sweden 7.6174-7.6224
Switzerland 1.4740-1.4750

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso* 1.6342-1.6369
Australia dollar 2.3260-2.3284
Bahrain dinar 0.607-0.621
Brazil real* 1.7963-1.8007
China yuan 13.342-13.642
Cyprus pound 0.8455-0.8645
Finland markka 8.5700-8.7110
Greece drachma 449.2-459.7
Hong Kong dollar 12.6347-12.6467
India rupee 58.43-59.73
Indonesia rupiah .... n/a
Kuwait dinar KD 0.488-0.499
Malaysia ringgit 5.5348-5.5505
New Zealand dollar 2.6176-2.6213
Pakistan rupee .... 70.15 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal 5.8625-5.9975
Singapore dollar 2.5819-2.5867
S Africa rand (com) 7.6080-7.7770
U A E dirham 5.9150-6.0510
Barclays Treasury * *Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	862	Legal & Gn	2,300
ASDA Gp	6,400	Lloyds TSB	8,000
Abbey Ntl	3,000	LucasVarity	4,500
Allnce & Leic	1,100	Marks Spr	2,900
Allied Dom	2,100	NatWst Bk	4,100
AB Foods	390	Nat Grid	3,800
BAA	947	Nat Power	10,300
BAT Inds	4,700	Next	729
BG	16,400	Norwich Un	8,200
BOC	934	Orange	1,000
BP	11,500	P & O	973
BSkyB	4,200	Pearson	1,400
BTR	7,400	PowerGen	4,700
BT	8,500	Prudential	1,700
Bk of Scot	4,300	RMC	198
Barclays	1,900	Railtrack	2,900
Bass	1,800	Rank Group	2,800
Billiton	17,700	Reckitt Col	2,300
Blue Circle	1,700	Reed Intl	2,600
Boots	3,800	Rentokil	2,900
BAe	1,100	Reuters	5,400
BA	3,200	Rio Tinto	1,600
British Land	1,200	Rolls Royce	3,400
Brit Steel	3,200	Royal & Sun	4,400
Cable Wire	8,500	Royal Bk Sct	940
Cadbury	1,800	Safeway	2,200
Carlton Cms	946	Sainsbury	2,600
Centrica	8,600	Schroders	324
Cm Union	1,500	Scot & New	1,000
Dixons	1,900	Scot Power	2,800
EMI	982	Svrn Trent	572
Energy Gp	767	Shell Trans	11,400
Enterpr Oil	1,100	Siebe	642
GKN	634	SmKl Bch	6,900
GRE	4,300	Smiths Inds	997
GUS	1,400	Std Chartd	5,200
Gen Acc	470	Sun Life	1,500
Gen Elec	4,800	TI Gp	557
Glaxo Well	6,500	Tesco	3,000
Granada	2,300	Thames W	1,200
Grand Met	4,200	Tomkins	1,700
Guinness	2,100	Unilever	5,800
HSBC	8,800	Utd Utilities	1,200
Halifax	2,600	Utd News	515
Hays	421	Vodafone	5,700
ICI	2,900	Whitbread	978
Kingfisher	1,200	Williams	7,700
LASMO	1,000	Wolseley	739
Ladbroke	8,000	Woolwich	4,700
Land Secs	730	Zeneca	2,600

WALL STREET

	Oct 24 midday	Oct 23 close
AMP Inc	48⅝	47⅞
AMR Corp	118⅝	118⅝
AT & T	49⅜	49⅛
Abbott Labs	62⅜	61⅞
Advanced Micro	27⅜	27⅛
Aetna Life	76¼	76¼
Ahmanson (HF)	60⅞	60¼
Air Prod & Chem	78	77½
AirTouch Comm	40⅞	40⅞
Albertson's	37	37½
Alcan Alumnm	32⅜	32⅛
Allied Signal	39⅜	39½
Alum Co of Am	78⅛	77¼
Amerada Hess	62¼	62¼
Amer El Power	47½	47⅞
Amer Express	81⅞	82¼
Amer Genl Corp	53½	53⅞
Amer Home Pr	74⅛	74½
Amer Intl	107⅛	106⅞
Amer Stores	25⅛	25⅛
Amer Standard	39	37⅛
Ameritech	66⅞	66⅛
Amgen	48¼	48
Amoco	94½	94⅛
Andrew Corp	27⅛	26⅞
Anheuser-Busch	41⅛	40⅞
Apple Computer	18¼	17½
Archer Daniels	23⅞	23⅞
Armco	6½	5⅞
Armstrng Wrld	68⅛	68⅛
Asarco	30	29⅞
Atl Richfield	82½	82½
Atmel Corp	29⅞	30⅛
Auto Data Pro	51¼	51½
Avery Dennison	41⅛	40⅞
Avon Products	66¼	66½
Baker Hughes	47½	46½
Baltim Gas & El	27⅛	27⅛
Banc One	53⅞	52⅞
BankAmerica	77¼	76⅞
Bank of NY	49¼	49¼
Bankers Tr NY	123½	122⅞
Barnett Banks	72⅞	71¼
Bausch & Lomb	41¼	41⅛
Baxter Intl	51	52½
Bectn Dicksn	46½	46½
Bell Atlantic	83¼	83⅛
BellSouth	48⅞	48⅛
Black & Decker	40⅛	40⅛
Block (H&R)	38½	38⅛
Boeing	49½	49¼
Boise Cascade	41⅛	41¼
Boston Scien	49⅛	49½
Bristol Myrs Sq	90⅛	89⅞
Browning Ferris	34⅞	34⅛
Brunswick	34½	34½
Burlington Nthn	99⅞	99⅛
CMS Energy Corp	37⅛	36½
CPC Intl	100⅞	100⅛
CSX	56⅞	55½
Campbell Soup	54	54⅛
Carolina Pwr	35½	35½
Case Corp	69⅞	69⅞
Caterpillar	59½	59¼
Central & SW	21½	21⅞
Champion Intl	62⅛	61⅞
Chase Manhat	125½	122½
Chevron Corp	84⅞	83½
Chrysler	36¼	36½
Chubb Corp	69½	68⅛
Cigna Corp	170½	170⅛
Citicorp	139⅞	136¼
Clorox	69½	69
Coastal Corp	63½	62⅞
Coca Cola	58	57½
Coca Cola Ent	30½	29⅞
Colgate-Palm	72¼	72½
Columbia Gas	75⅛	74½
ColumbiaHCA	29½	29½
Compaq Comp	72¼	71⅛
Comp Ass Int	79	77⅞
Conagra	32⅞	32¼
Cons Edison	34⅛	34½
Cons Nat Gas	55½	55⅞
Cooper Inds	54⅞	54⅞
Corestates	77⅛	77⅞
Corning Inc	47¼	47½
C'wide Credit	35⅛	34½
Crestar Finl	48¼	48¼
Crown Cork	40⅞	46½
Dana Corp	51½	51½
Dayton Hudson	60½	60¼
Deere	57½	56⅛
Delta Air Lines	107⅛	106½
Deluxe Corp	33⅛	32⅞
Digital Equip	51⅛	50⅞
Dillard Dept St	37⅞	37½
Disney (Walt)	84⅛	82⅞
Dominion Res	37½	37⅛
Donnelley (RR)	34⅞	34¼
Dover Corp	71⅞	71⅞
Dow Chemical	93⅛	93⅛
Dow Jones	49½	49⅛
Dresser	44⅛	43½
Duke Power	48⅛	48⅛
Dun & Brdstreet	28⅛	28⅛
Du Pont	59½	60⅛
Eastman Chem	62½	62⅛
Eastman Kodak	61½	61⅛
Eaton Corp	100⅞	100½

	Oct 24 midday	Oct 23 close
Edison Intl	26¼	26¼
Elect Data Sys	35½	36⅛
Emerson Elec	55⅞	55⅛
Engelhard Corp	18⅛	18½
Enron Corp	40½	40⅛
Entergy	25⅛	25⅛
Ethyl Corp	9¼	9⅛
Exxon	63⅞	63½
FMC Corp	82½	82¼
FPL Group	51⅞	52
Federal Express	73⅞	73½
Fifth Third Banc	67¼	66½
Fleet Fnl Grp	67½	67⅞
Fluor Corp	51¼	50⅞
Ford Motor	47½	46⅞
Fort James	41¼	41⅛
Fortune Brands	37½	33½
Franklin Res	102½	100½
GTE Corp	45⅞	45½
Gannett	53⅞	54
Gap Inc Del	52½	52⅛
Gateway 2000	31½	31½
Gen Dynamics	82⅞	82⅞
Gen Electric	68½	67½
Gen Mills	68⅞	68⅞
Gen Motors	70½	70⅛
Gen Reinsurance	200⅞	201¼
Gen Signal	40½	40½
Genuine Parts	32⅞	32⅛
Georgia Pac	100½	99¼
Gillette	92½	91½
Glaxo Welc ADR	42⅛	41¼
Goodrich (BF)	44⅞	45
Goodyear Tire	67¼	66½
Great Lakes	49⅞	49½
Halliburton	62½	61½
Harcourt General	52½	52⅛
Heinz (HJ)	47¼	47⅛
Hercules	47⅞	47⅛
Hershey Foods	54⅛	54½
Hewlett Packard	65⅛	66⅛
Hilton Hotels	34½	34½
Home Depot	55½	55⅛
Homestake Mng	13⅞	14½
Honeywell	74⅛	73½
Household Intl	118	116⅞
Houston Inds	22¼	22½
Humana	23⅛	23½
ITT Corp	75⅛	74⅛
Ikon Office	30½	30⅛
Illinois Tool	51½	50½
Illinova	30⅛	29⅞
INCO	23	22¼
Ingersoll Rand	44½	44½
Inland Steel	20⅛	19½
Intel Corp	83⅛	81¼
IBM	102½	100⅛
Intl Flav & Fr	49¼	49⅛
Intl Paper	56	55½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	59¼	58⅛
Kellogg	43⅞	43½
Kerr-McGee	69⅛	68⅞
Kimberly-Clark	52¼	51⅞
Kmart	13⅛	13⅛
Knight-Ridder	55⅞	55½
Lilly (Eli)	69⅛	68⅞
Limited Inc	23⅛	22⅞
Lincoln Nat	69¼	69⅛
Litton	52⅛	52⅛
Liz Claiborne	52⅛	51⅞
Lockheed Martin	99¼	98¼
Louisiana Pac	24¼	23⅞
MCI Comm	38	37⅞
Manpower Inc	39⅛	39
Marriott Intl	74½	72⅞
Marsh & McLnn	76½	74¼
Masco Corp	45⅞	45½
May Dept St	53⅛	53⅛
Maytag Corp	34½	34½
McDonalds	47⅛	47½
McGraw Hill	67⅞	68
Mead Corp	70¼	70¼
Medtronic	47	47
Mellon Bk	54⅛	52⅞
Merck Inc	95½	94½
Mercury Fin	1⅛	1⅛
Merrill Lynch	73⅛	72⅛
Microsoft	136½	135½
Minnesota Mine	99½	99⅛
Mirage Resorts	26½	26⅞
Mobil Corp	73½	72⅛
Monsanto	45⅛	44½
Morgan (JP)	118⅞	118¼
Motorola Inc	66½	65⅛
Mylan Labs	24⅛	24¼
Natl Semi	37½	37⅛
Natl Service Ind	45¼	45½
Navistar Int	22½	22½
NY Times A	55⅛	55⅛
Newmont Mng	42⅛	41⅞
Nike B	48⅞	48⅞
NL Industries	16½	16⅞
Nordstrom	60⅞	59½
Norfolk Sthrn	33⅞	33½
Nthn State Pwr	50½	50⅛
Norwest Corp	33⅛	32¼
Occidental Pet	29⅞	29⅛
Ohio Edison	23¼	23⅛
Oracle	35	34½
Oryx Energy Co	28⅛	27½

	Oct 24 midday	Oct 23 close
Owens Corning	35⅛	35
PPG Industries	60¼	60⅛
PMI Group	62½	62½
PNC Bank	50¼	49½
PP&L Res	21⅛	21⅛
Paccar Inc	52½	52⅛
Pacificorp	21⅞	21⅞
Pac Enterprises	34	33½
Pall Corp	22½	22
Parker Hannifin	49⅞	49⅛
Peco Energy	23½	23⅛
Penney (JC)	56⅞	55¼
Pennzoil	78½	77⅞
Pepsico	38⅛	37⅞
Pfizer	73½	71⅛
Pharm & Upjhn	34⅛	34
Phelps Dodge	78⅛	78½
Philip Morris	41½	41⅛
Phillips Pet	48⅞	48⅛
Pitney Bowes	81¼	81½
Polaroid	46½	46¼
Procter & Gmbl	71¼	70½
Providian	40⅛	40¼
Pub Serv E & G	25½	25¼
Quaker Oats	47½	47⅛
Ralston Purina	92⅛	92⅛
Raychem Corp	92⅞	92⅞
Raytheon	59¼	56½
Reebok Intl	38⅞	38⅛
Reliastar Fin	39½	39
Reynolds Metals	68½	67⅞
Rockwell Intl	54½	54⅛
Rohm & Haas	80⅞	80⅛
Royal Dutch	53½	53½
Rubbermaid	24⅛	24¼
SBC Comms	64¼	64¼
Safeco Corp	49⅛	49½
St Paul's Cos	83	82½
Salomon Inc	83⅛	82⅞
Sara Lee Corp	51½	52⅛
Schering Plough	61¼	59⅞
Schlumberger	92½	91⅞
Seagram	36½	36¼
Sears Roebuck	43	43⅛
Shell Trans	42¼	42⅛
Sherwin Wlms	29⅛	28½
Silicon Graphics	16	15⅞
Snap-On-Tools	45½	44⅞
Southern Co	24	23¼
Southtrust	51	50¼
Sprint Corp	56	55⅞
Stanley Works	42⅞	42⅞
Sun Company	40⅛	39⅞
Sun Microsys	38⅛	36¼
Suntrust	68⅞	68⅞
Supervalu	37	36⅞
Synovus Fin	22⅛	22⅛
Sysco Corp	30⅛	30¼
TRW Inc	60⅛	60½
TIG Hldgs	35½	35⅞
Tandy Corp	37½	37½
Temple Inland	64½	64¼
Tenet Healthcare	31⅛	31⅛
Tenneco	50⅛	49⅞
Texaco	60¼	60½
Texas Inst	121¼	120¼
Texas Utilities	36⅞	36⅞
Textron	61⅞	61½
Thermo Elect	40⅛	39¼
Time Warner	59½	59
Times-Mirror A	54¼	54¼
Timken	36⅛	35⅞
Torchmark	40⅛	39⅞
Toys R Us	33½	33⅛
Transamerica	100⅞	100⅛
Travelers	74½	74¼
Tribune	55⅞	55½
UST Inc	30⅛	30⅛
US Bancorp	103½	103½
UAL	93⅛	95
Unitrin	64¼	64½
US Inds	27½	27⅛
US West Comm	40½	39⅞
US West Media	28½	26½
USAirways Group	49⅛	47½
USX Marathon	36⅛	36½
Unicom	24⅛	24½
Unilever NV	53½	53½
Union Camp	61⅛	61⅞
Union Carbide	48¼	49⅛
Union Pacific	64¼	63¼
Unisys Corp	14½	14½
USF&G Corp	20½	20½
United Tech	76½	76½
Unocal Corp	43¼	43⅛
VF Corp	87½	87⅛
Wal-Mart Stores	38	39¼
Warner-Lambert	150½	147⅞
Waste Mngmt	30	29¼
Wells Fargo	310	308¼
Westinghouse El	29⅛	28⅞
Weyerhaeuser	52¼	52½
Whirlpool	63¼	62¼
Whitman	27⅛	27½
Winn Dixie	37¼	37⅛
Witco Corp	45⅛	44½
Woolworth	19½	19½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	72⅛	72⅛
Xerox	87⅛	86
Xilinx Inc	38¼	37½

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

FA damns Italian police

■ The Football Association accused the Italian police of "*deliberate intimidation*" and "extreme provocation" in a damning report into the violence that marred England's World Cup match in Rome a fortnight ago.

The condemnation *threatened to blow up into a diplomatic* storm as the Italian Embassy in London dismissed the investigation as a "one-sided whitewash" .... **Page 1**

Blair shows Britain video

■ Tony Blair put his personal stamp on Britain's new image as a young, vibrant nation with a promotional video shown to millions of television viewers across the Commonwealth — and watched in silence at Edinburgh .... **Pages 1, 13**

Willetts returns

David Willetts, one of the Conservatives' foremost political thinkers, is rejoining the Centre for Policy Studies .... **Page 2**

Stormy Oasis

Noel and Liam Gallagher served up old-fashioned rock star loutishness on the BBC .... **Page 3**

Political designs

Tory women MPs struck back in the political fashion wars by criticising the rapidly shortening hemlines, high heels and dress code of the new intake of sister Labour MPs .... **Page 3**

Venables 'dishonest'

A judge called Terry Venables dishonest as he jailed the former England football coach's righthand man .... **Page 4**

Final account

A week's mourning of wine and nibbles precedes the closure of the Ladies Branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland .... **Page 11**

Human rights

Human rights are to be enshrined in British law under government proposals that will allow people to seek redress in UK courts rather *than in Europe* .... ***Page 12***

No-go zone

Algeria has become a virtual no-go zone for foreigners, more than 200 having been killed there in five years .... **Page 16**

Iran olive branch

Teheran has welcomed Britain's decision to issue an exclusion order against the leader of Iran's main opposition group .... **Page 16**

Breasts award

A woman who claimed her breasts were left deformed after silcone implants was awarded £20,636 damages .... **Page 18**

Labour whodunnit

Blame for finishing off the "honeymoon couple", Gordon and Tony, has been laid at the door of those who brief the press .... **Page 19**

Rector guilty of affair

■ Clifford Williams, 49, the Rector of Benllech faced being stripped of his holy orders after an ecclesiastical court in Wales found, after a five-day hearing, that he had had an adulterous six-year affair with a married parishioner .... **Pages 1, 5**

NEWS FEATURES

Valerie Grove: Mary Robinson changed things for ever. Another Mary will take over as President on Thursday when Ireland votes, and it is neck and neck .... **Page 21**

Hillary Clinton: Sister Frigi*daire*, as she was known throughout the Administration's first term, has returned *as Mellow Mother* ..... ***Page 9***

Umbrio appeal: It is emerging that far many more art treasures in Umbria are at serious risk than was previously thought .... **Page 6**

OPINION

The Bill for Rights: This Human Rights Bill could shift the balance between Parliament and the courts, irreversibly .... ***Page 23***

First lady, second look: Farewell then Lady Macbeth. *Hello*, Mother Teresa. *Hillary* Clinton celebrates her 50th birthday with a glittering gala in Chicago .... **Page 23**

Round the reading rooms: The new British Library *reading rooms* are a *step* on the road from libraries to the global bookshelf .... **Page 23**

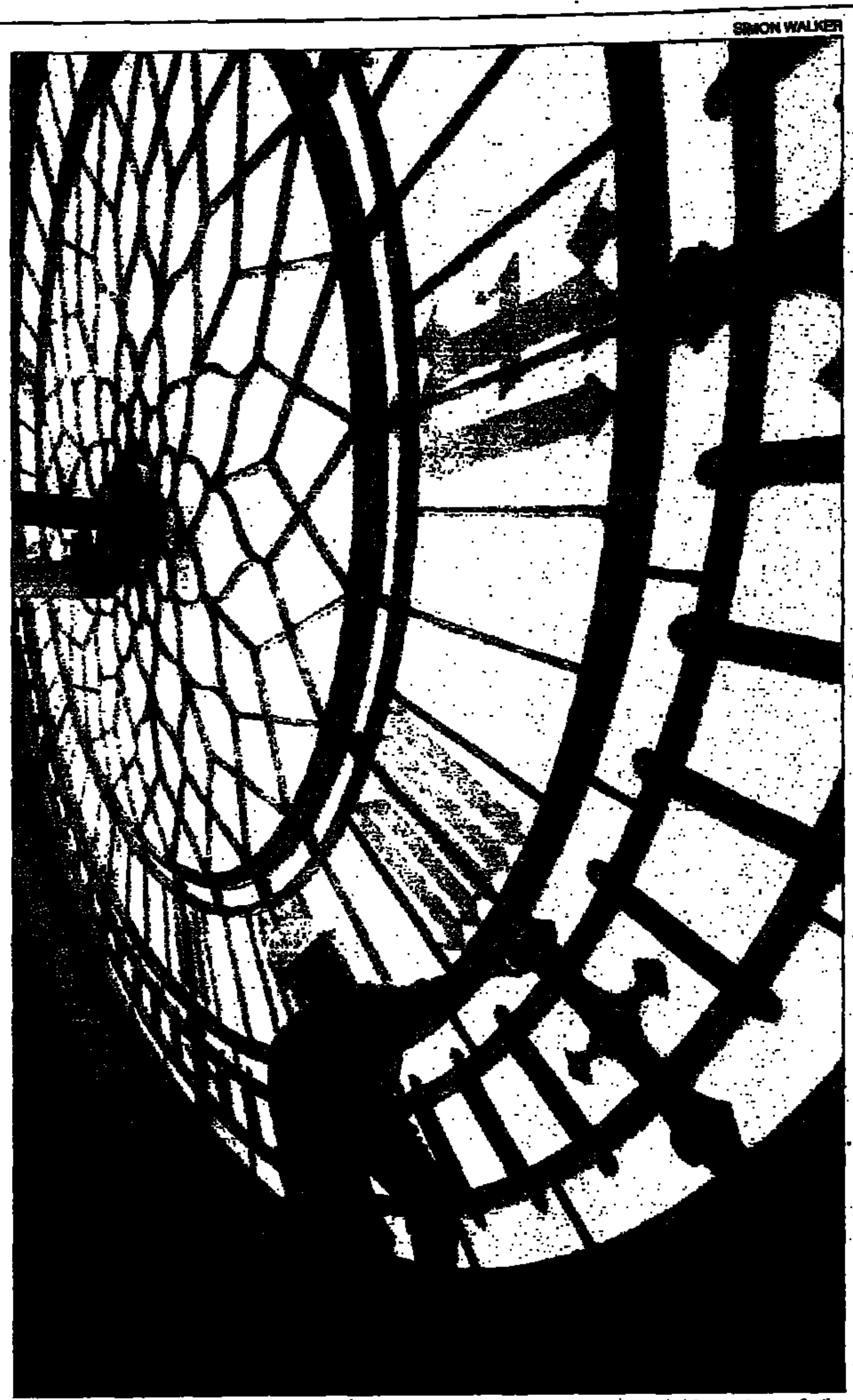
COLUMNS

John Lloyd: Manoeuvrings *point to two worrying states* of affairs: first, that there is a potential breach between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor; and secondly, that it may be decided to rule out entry to the single currency for this Parliament **Page 22**

Bronwen Maddox: America is in a mess on the whole question of childcare **Page 22**

Simon Barnes: I don't twitch. That is to say, I don't chase rare birds. I don't even keep a list .... **Page 22**

SIMON WALKER



Mike McCann, Keeper of the Great Clock, uses the twice a year changing of the clocks — they go back tomorrow at 2am — as an opportunity to maintain Big Ben

Tecs: At least 20 cases of alleged fraud by firms under *contract to* Training and Enterprise Councils are being investigated by the *Government*.. **Page 27**

Utilities: Brian Staples, ousted chief executive of United Utilities, served a £1 million writ on the company .... **Page 27**

Economy: Stockmarkets appeared to recover from Thursday's slide in Hong Kong until Wall Street went into reverse turning a 92-point gain into a 122-point loss .... ***Page 27***

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 21.3 points to close at 4970.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 101.7 to 102.1 after a rise from $1.6298 to $1.6338 and from DM2.8921 to DM2.9062............ **Page 31**

Cricket: Philip Tufnell can tour the West Indies with England after being given a suspended sentence and fined for failing to take a drug test .... **Page 35**

Tennis: Jonas Bjorkman overcame Nicolas Kiefer in the quarter-finals of the Eurocard Open ... **Page 41**

Maurice Griffiths, yacht designer, author and editor; **Roger Wybot**, French counter-intelligence head; **Captain Quentin Smythe, VC** .... ***Page 25***

End of line for legal aid gravy train; "ruined" Holbein portrait; modern martyrs for Westminster Abbey .... **Page 23**

MAGAZINE

Breakfast heir: Zoe Ball rises and shines .... **Page 8**

Winter fashion: Grey days ahead .... **Page 52**

Top tapper: Michael *Flatley's feat* .... **Page 30**

Battle cry: Sex abuse and US soldiers .... **Page 16**

Weighty stuff: The big interview with Beck Hansen .... **Pages 6 - 8**

On her toes: Siobhan Davies .... **Pages 10, 11**

Metal guru: Popping in to Paolozzi .... **Pages 26, 27**

WEEKEND

Elton John: Why I love my garden .... **Pages 1, 2**

Property: *Shadowlands* setting for sale...... **Page 13**

Travel: Seychelles; ski Canada; cruise the world .... **Pages 21-29**

taste of the times

New British food and drink: Part 5

WEEKEND MONEY GUIDE

Your future: Changes in savings options and the pensions maze

Vision

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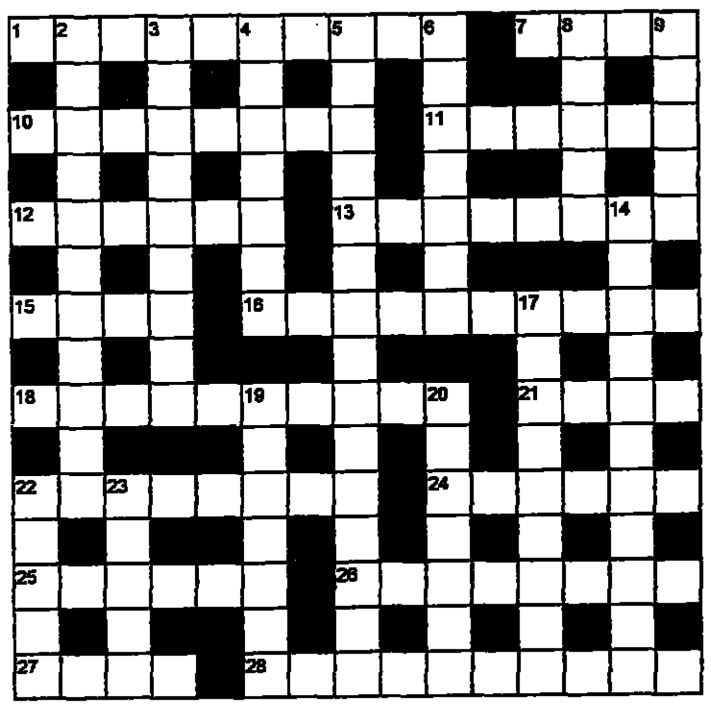
For younger readers of *The Times*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,620

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....



ACROSS

1 Second-hand stalls quick to accept a bit of foreign money (4,6).
7 Placid learner put in academic stream (4).
10 Remove lead from slow opponents at cards? (8).
11 Something strange seen in every quarter of 1997 (6).
12 Mischievous spirits not welcomed on course (6).
13 Applause not all found attractive (8).
15 As soon as Conservative splits unity (4).
16 Outrageously rubbish half my clues (but not first in crossword) (10).
18 Sweet teacher expert at making money (4,6).
21 Cut spruce (4).
22 Girl was thoughtful and not diverted (8).
24 Run without a stitch (6).
25 Warning home appears to collapse (4,2).
26 Object is found by English females men respected in Turkey (8).
27 Attack with hammer (4).
28 On an even keel, but without energy? (10).

DOWN

2 Bar establishment where president drank? (8,3).
3 An attraction designed, we hear, to be used in moderation (9).
4 Witnesses present for trials (7).
5 Type needs alteration in suit — nice quality! (4-11).
6 Counter-reformation's slaughter (7).
8 Foreign friend one's naming? No, all names withheld (5).
9 Live under a tree, perhaps (5).
14 Claim ritual must be changed, involving all sorts of people (11).
17 One hunts king out thus? (9).
19 Ways gunmen raised the equipment they need (7).
20 *Soothing the others if you reveal* only the conclusions (7).
22 Having no facets complete? (5).
23 Forging equipment found in Italian village (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,614

```
JOHN RICK ADDON
A O B N I S I O
CARDIFF LUSHEST
K D O A K E T E
EMERGENCE THIRD
T   R T N S T L
SASHAY SNOTTILY
  U P I Y R A  
SYMPHONY DINNER
A M I F S P   O
ILIAC LAKEPOETS
N N A I E E P E
TAGALOG WORTHIT
L U L H E S O T
YUPPY TART AREA
```

Solution to Puzzle No 20,619

```
HITORMISS THREW
A E U N T A O E
BARONET RIBANDS
I M N H E L D T
TOADY ENTRECOTE
  G M A C     R
PRATE LOHENGRIN
R N D T O A E E
ONTHETOWN VICAR
P     G E I A  
HEADDRESS GAPES
E R E T L A T W
TRIUMPH ENTHUSE
I S U E G O R E
CHEER RESURGENT
```

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *P Lawther, Newquay, Cornwall; H S O Gilbert, Formby, Merseyside; J Bailey, Dulwich, London; D Yeo, Plymouth; D Micklethwaite, Durkar, Wakefield.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7 42 am	5 47 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
3.38 pm	1.19 am

New moon October 31

London 5 47 pm to 6 44 am
Bristol 5.57 pm to 6 57 am
Edinburgh 5 48 pm to 7 07 am
Manchester 5 51 pm to 6 57 am
Penzance 6 11 pm to 7 02 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
6.44 am	4 45 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
3 03 pm	1.21 am

New moon October 31

London 4 45 pm to 6 45 am
Bristol 4 55 pm to 6 56 am
Edinburgh 4 46 pm to 7 09 am
Manchester 4 49 pm to 6 58 am
Penzance 5 09 pm to 7 04 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	02 54	5.7	22 13	5.9
Aberdeen	15 09	3.5	22 24	3.6
Avonmouth	02 47	9.4	15 22	9.7
Belfast	07 35	2.9	19 39	3.1
Cardiff	02 33	9.9	15 09	9.1
Devonport	01 26	4.2	13 51	4.4
Dover	07 10	5.4	20 04	5.3
Dublin (N Wall)	13 16	3.4	20 35	3.7
Falmouth	00 57	4.1	13 22	4.2
Greenock	05 57	2.8	22 37	3.0
Harwich	07 21	3.1	20 24	3.2
Holyhead	12 03	4.5	19 25	4.7
Hull (Albert D)	01 48	7.2	15 06	6.8
Ilfracombe	01 57	6.7	14 30	7.0
King's Lynn	02 06	5.0	15 18	5.0
Leith	17 05	4.5	23 31	4.6
Liverpool	07 30	7.2	22 52	7.5
Lowestoft	02 18	2.2	12 53	2.2
Margate	07 48	3.9	20 43	4.0
Milford Haven	22 26	5.1	14 47	5.3
Newquay	01 27	5.1	13 48	5.4
Oban	02 42	2.9	15 34	3.3
Penzance	20 29	4.2	13 15	4.4
Portland	02 57	1.2	15 18	1.3
Portsmouth	07 54	3.9	20 21	3.7
Shoreham	07 14	4.9	19 55	4.7
Southampton	07 09	3.8	19 23	3.8
Swansea	01 56	[illegible]	14 36	7.3
Tees	-	-	12 21	4.3
Walton-on-N	07 24	3.3	20 23	3.3

All times BST. Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Loftus, Middlesbrough, 0.12in; highest sunshine: Morecambe, Lancashire, 9.5hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ ***General:*** *NE Scotland will see further* rain, with sleet or snow at first in Shetland. Cloud will spread to north and east Scotland and northeast England, with drizzle possible this afternoon. Southwest Scotland and N Ireland will be dry with sunny spells, turning cloudier later. Wales and western and southern England will see more sunshine after early fog or cloud clears.

☐ **London, SE England, Cent S England, Channel Isles, SW England:** dry with long spells of sunshine. Light easterly wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **E Anglia, E Midlands, E England:** dry and mainly sunny, but cloudy later. Light NW wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ ***W Midlands, Wales, NW England,*** **Lake District, Isle of Man, Cent N England:** dry with sunny spells, clouding over from north later. Light and variable wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **NE England:** dry, mainly sunny, becoming cloudy with patchy drizzle later. Light NW wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ ***Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:*** early bright spells, becoming cloudy with light rain. Light NW wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** *dull with patchy light rain.* Moderate N wind. Max 10C (50F).

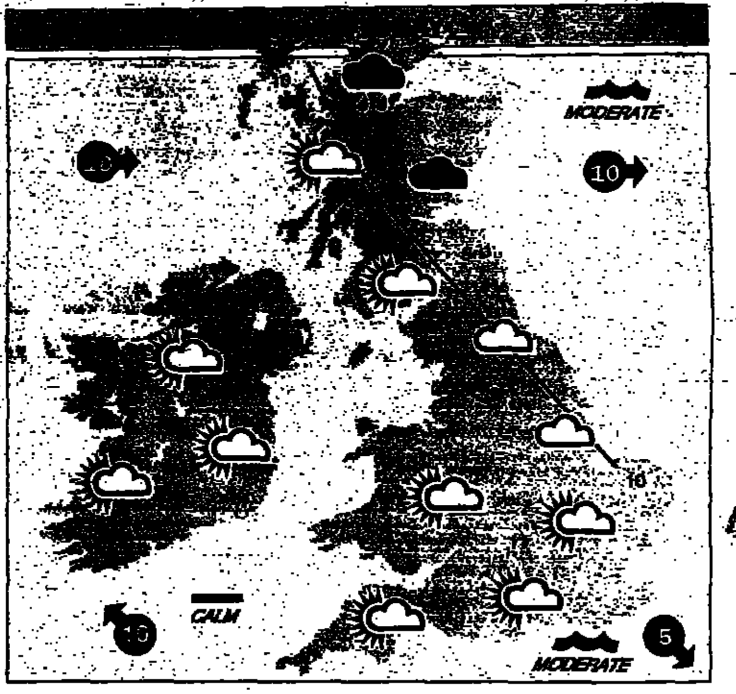
☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland:** sunny *spells but clouding over in north west later.* Light variable wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** dull with light rain. Moderate N wind. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **N Ireland:** dry with sunny spells. Mainly light E wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** dry and bright, with sunny spells developing after early mist or fog patches. Wind SE light or moderate. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Outlook:** settled in most areas but cold overnight with fog patches. Most places will have some sunshine but it will stay more cloudy in east and far north. Rain most likely in N and E Scotland.



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

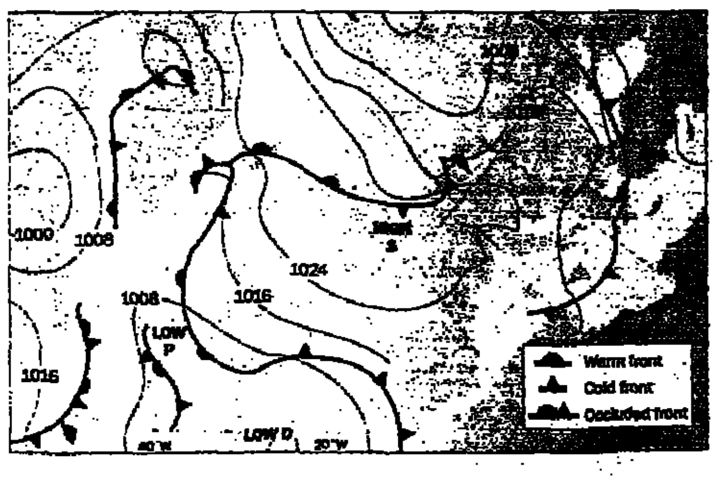
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.7	0.01	7	45	sh	Lerwick	0.9	0.01	5	41	sn
Anglesey	9.4	-	11	52	s	Leuchars	9.4	-	9	48	s
Aspatria	4.9	-	9	48	s	Littlehmptn	9.4	-	12	54	s
Aviemore	7.7	0.01	7	45	s	London	5.4	-	11	52	s
Belfast	0.5	-	10	50	c	Lowestoft	X				
Birmingham	8.4	-	10	50	s	Manchester	7.1	-	11	52	s
Bognor R	9.3	-	13	55	s	Margate	7.1	-	12	54	s
Bournem'th	8.7	-	13	55	s	Minehead	5.1	-	10	50	s
Bristol	6.0	-	12	54	s	Morecambe	9.5	-	10	50	s
Buxton	5.8	-	7	45	s	Newcastle	8.4	0.01	9	48	s
Cardiff	9.2	-	10	50	s	Newquay	X				
Clacton	6.8	-	11	52	s	Norwich	4.2	0.01	11	52	b
Cleethorpes	3.4	0.01	10	50	b	Oxford	6.1	-	10	50	s
Colwyn Bay	8.4	-	10	50	s	Penzance	X	-	15	59	s
Cromer	2.8	0.01	10	50	b	Poole	7.4	-	13	55	s
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X				
Eastbourne	8.5	-	13	55	s	Ross-o-wye	6.3	-	11	52	s
Edinburgh	X					Salcombe	7.8	-	13	55	s
Eskdalemuir	3.1	-	9	46	c	Saunton Snd	8.1	-	13	55	s
Exmouth	0.7	-	12	54	s	Scarboro'	3.8	0.03	8	46	s
Falmouth	6.4	-	13	55	b	Shrewsbury	7.9	-	10	50	s
Fishguard	8.2	-	11	52	s	Skegness	X				
Folkestone	5.6	-	12	54	b	Southend	8.2	-	12	54	b
Glasgow	3.3	-	9	48	c	Southport	X				
Guernsey	3.3	0.01	15	59	sh	Southsea	X				
Hastings	7.9	-	12	54	s	Stornoway	5.1	-	9	48	s
Hayling I.	8.9	-	12	54	s	Swanage	7.1	-	12	54	s
Herne Bay	7.1	-	11	52	s	Teignmouth	6.7	-	12	54	s
Hove	X					Tenby	7.3	-	12	54	s
Hunstanton	X	-	10	50	c	Tiree	3.9	0.01	10	50	s
Isle-of-man	3.5	-	11	52	s	Torquay	4.5	-	15	59	s
Isle-of-wight	8.4	-	13	55	s	Tynemouth	-	0.03	8	46	s
Jersey	2.7	-	13	55	c	West-s-mare	7.3	-	11	52	s
Kinloss	3.3	-	8	46	b	Weymouth	8.7	-	13	55	s
Leeds	7.5	-	11	52	s						

ABROAD

Ajaccio	21	70	f	Corfu	19	66	c	Majorca	25	77	f	Rome	21	70	f
Akrotiri	22	72	f	C'phagn	8	46	f	Malaga	24	75	f	S Fr'sco	17	63	f
Alex'dria	28	82	s	Dublin	9	48	c	Malta	23	73	s	S Paulo	X		
Algiers	25	77	f	Dubrovnik	18	64	f	Melb'rne	16	61	s	Salzburg	8	46	c
Amst'dm	12	54	c	Faro	22	72	s	Mexico C	X			Santiago	24	75	s
Athens	22	72	f	Florence	21	70	f	Miami	27	81	s	Seoul	23	73	s
B Aires	21	70	f	Frankfurt	2	36	c	Milan	16	61	c	Sing'por	31	88	c
Bahrain	28	82	f	Funchal	24	75	f	Montreal	3	37	s	St'kholm	1	34	s
Bangkok	33	91	f	Geneva	13	55	c	Moscow	3	37	c	Strasb'rg	4	39	c
Barbados	31	88	f	Gibraltar	23	73	s	Munich	6	43	f	Sydney	22	72	s
Barcelona	25	77	f	Helsinki	-1	30	c	N Delhi	24	75	f	Tangier	23	73	c
Beirut	23	73	f	Hong K	26	79	f	N York	9	48	s	Tel Aviv	25	77	s
Belgrade	8	46	c	Innsbrck	11	52	s	Nairobi	23	73	f	Tenerife	26	79	f
Berlin	10	50	c	Istanbul	17	63	f	Naples	23	73	f	Tokyo	23	73	s
Bermuda	24	75	f	Jeddah	31	88	f	Nice	17	63	r	Toronto	4	39	sl
Biarritz	18	64	c	Jo'burg	27	81	f	Oslo	5	41	f	Tunis	27	81	c
Borde'x	17	63	s	L Angeles	19	66	s	Paris	9	48	s	Valencia	26	79	s
Brussels	11	52	f	L Palmas	25	77	s	Peking	14	57	s	Vanc'ver	10	50	s
Budapst	11	52	s	Le Touqt	13	55	s	Perth	24	75	s	Venice	15	59	c
Cairo	27	81	s	Lisbon	22	72	f	Prague	8	46	s	Vienna	10	50	s
Cape Tn	17	63	f	Locarno	13	55	c	Reykjavik	4	39	c	Warsaw	7	45	c
Ch'church	13	55	X	Luxembg	9	48	s	Rhodes	17	63	f	Wash'ton	11	52	s
Chicago	10	50	f	Luxor	29	84	s	Rio de J	25	77	f	Wel'ngton	17	63	X
Cologne	10	50	f	Madrid	15	59	f	Riyadh	23	73	f	Zurich	7	45	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to chart above from noon: high S will build as it moves into the North Sea; low D will fill and become indistinct as it moves E; low P will move slowly N as it gradually deepens

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DC-10 to Barbados on 23 December ● eight nights at Sam Lord's ● inaugural Concorde to Havana ● two nights with tours ● New Year's Dinner ● return to Gatwick £1,999

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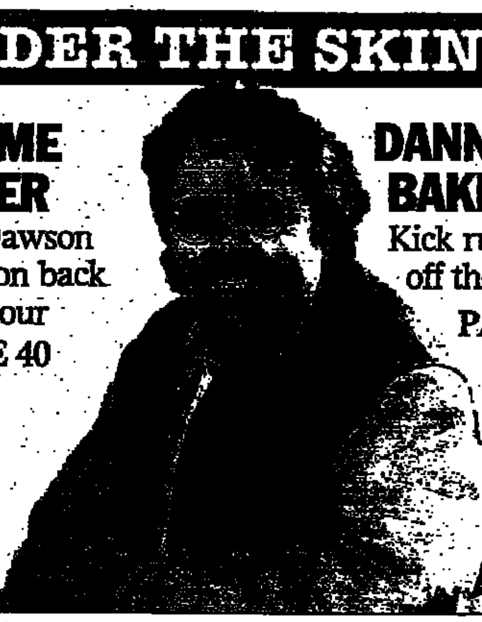
UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

BIG GAME HUNTER
Matt Dawson is a Lion back in favour
PAGE 40



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THE TIMES
SATURDAY SPORT
OCTOBER 25 1997

VILLENEUVE AND SCHUMACHER HAVE THEIR EYES ON THE PRIZE

Villeneuve, left, and Schumacher may be poles apart in temperament and upbringing, but this weekend they are united by ambition: the desire to secure the Formula One crown. Photographs: Allsport

World title resting in lap of the gods

Michael Calvin assesses the rivals ready to drive on the edge in Jerez

TWO men, one title: the ultimate attraction of opposites. The duel for the Formula One world championship pitches a privileged prep school dropout against the assiduous son of a factory worker. They are as fundamentally different as their favourite singers, Iggy Pop and Phil Collins.

The only thing that unites Jacques Villeneuve and Michael Schumacher is their unrelenting ambition, which may well consume them tomorrow when a global odyssey ends on *the dusty, bumpy Circuito de* Jerez. Any weakness, human or technological, will be exposed before a television audience in excess of 350 million.

Schumacher has no sense of history unless he makes it. Villeneuve lives with the ghost of his father, Gilles, an icon who died in the wreckage of a racing car. Even their teams are at either end of the emotional spectrum. Ferrari are fuelled by *La Passione*, pure instinct. Williams, who have won the constructors' title for a record ninth time, are a watchword for clinical detatchment.

"I wouldn't be able to win races in a bad car," Schumacher argued, but his intrinsic superiority may be worthless, because the £80 million that Ferrari have invested in the pursuit of their first world title for a generation cannot buy invulnerability. One of the few things he lacks is a sportsman's birthright, the privilege of being able to decide his own destiny.

Villeneuve has the burden of an inescapable advantage: the best car. His impulsive nature, illustrated yesterday by a lurid slide into a gravel trap during free practice for the European Grand Prix, is ill-suited to the demands of overcoming the deficit of a single point in the last race of an extended season.

"Neither of them will sleep very well this weekend, but I wouldn't want to be in Jacques's shoes," Damon Hill, whose anticlimactic year as world champion is about to end, said. "He is under an enormous amount of pressure, from himself as much as anything, because, deep down, he knows he has frittered away his advantage.

"To an extent, Williams have done their bit by winning the constructors' championship. Now it's down to him. It's his problem. On a purely personal level I'd like to see him win, but you have to say that Michael has done exceptionally well. If he wins, it will *be down to his brilliance. If* Jacques wins, everyone will say that's what he should have done anyway."

It is time for the Spice Boy to prove his substance. Craig Pollock, Villeneuve's manager, may insist that "Jacques goes into another mode when there is pressure," but his is an increasingly distant voice. Villeneuve's ability is beyond question, but many, even within his own team, have been alienated by his attitude.

Schumacher, by contrast, is regarded with a sense of awe. Gerhard Berger summed it up best. "It doesn't matter whether Michael wins the title this weekend," he said. "He's unbelievable. For his age and experience he's already there among the greats. With his focus, his fitness and his car control, the guy is just complete."

The German is isolated by his talent — "basically you have to ignore people," he says — but somehow retains a populist's touch. As bizarre as it *may seem, given the universal* appreciation of his ability to maintain a nervous car on the edge of adhesion, he is the underdog. "It does get the best out of me if I am really challenged," he said, but, like Ayrton Senna before him, he excels because of the compelling demands he places on others. As Ross Brawn, the Ferrari technical director, said: "When the pressure is on, Michael becomes that bit sharper and more acute. He tries that little bit harder to ensure we do not make any errors."

Joan Villadelprat, the Benetton team manager, was, with Brawn, a key element in Schumacher's two previous world title wins. "The pressure does get to him a little bit, because he is human, but he doesn't show it in his driving," he said. "In fact, the more pressure you put on him, the more he concentrates. If you know him you can tell when he's worried. He puts pressure on the team. It is all 'we must

Continued on page 34

Please tell our wandering boy to stay put

Gascoigne let loose in Premiership would be worrying for England

LYNNE TRUSS

HOW very unsettling to learn that Paul Gascoigne might be coming back to English football. It was like that awful, inevitable moment in Hammer horror films when someone enters, staggering, with wild eyes and tattered lab-coat and reports "It's on the loose!" Suddenly a lot of things have to be rethought, very quickly. Alarms are sounded; drawbridges closed with a rattle of chains; above all, complacency is roundly cursed. You really believed *Rangers* would be the end of the Paul Gascoigne phenomenon? You fools. He bursts such fetters with a single shrug.

The thing is, for a rather nervous England football fan like me, it's been lovely having Gazza play in Scotland. It's been *safe*. We've been able to wave cheerful yoo-hoos across the border to that big happy fish in his wee pond, with the double pleasure of enjoying his reflected glory of goals, goals, goals, and reserving the right to disown him at the very first sign of trouble. Distance has certainly lent enchantment where Gascoigne is concerned. Every time he turns up for international duty, we are pleased to see him, applaud his renewed dedication to fitness, take a genuine interest in his hair, and burst into tears at the superlative quality of his shimmies.

An emotional Gascoigne hugs Wright in relief after the final whistle in Rome

But does that mean we necessarily want him back? Well, no. Because the tragedy is, when you get Gazza, you get all of him. It is no accident that Gascoigne's pigeon-chested body divides clearly into two ill-proportioned parts, something like the house resting on chicken-legs in Russian folk tales. With Gazza, there's the rather splendid half controlled by his legs (the good part), and then there's the big, grinning, buffoony half controlled by his brain. He's got a foot like a brain, and a brain like a foot, poor beggar.

Nobody expects dazzling intellectuality from footballers: Graeme Le Saux is known as the Jean-Paul Sartre of British football because he collects antiques. But a man who'd be picked out of a Dennis-the-Menace identity parade — well, somehow you draw the line.

Will he come, or not? Is the *Night of the Living Gazza* set to commence at Villa Park? Is a tremendous footfall in the distance already loosening the brickwork of the Trinity Road stand? Rumours now suggest not. But when you think about it, a transfer to Aston Villa would give Gascoigne automatic top place as Villa's Most Interesting Player (the petulant Stan Collymore disqualifies himself).

But on the debit side, what if Premiership football wears him out before the World Cup? Over-excitement is surely something to protect Gazza from, especially in his advancing years. For the World Cup, you want him relaxed and confident, not worn to an agonised frazzle.

So on balance, *stay in Scotland, Gazza*. And if you are understandably miffed at Rangers' ungrateful willingness to sell you, find mature forgiveness in your heart. Stay put and stay happy. Turn off the alarms, and re-open the portcullis. Back on the slab with you, Gazza, and refasten those straps. That way, you really do yourself and everyone a favour.

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Villeneuve caught in the grip of scarlet fever

ROB HUGHES

In Jerez

Machiavelli lives and breathes. His spirit stalks the hot and dusty pit lane of Jerez de la Frontera in the guise of conspirators who claim that the European Grand Prix tomorrow is a done deal, a collaboration to *smooth Ferrari's path* to its first Formula One drivers' title for 18 years.

No one has told Jacques Villeneuve. If and when the rumours reach him, as perhaps they are designed to do, to tighten the tension around his bleached temples, he is entitled to observe that conspiracy in motor racing can blow out in a puff of smoke.

Yet the little French-Canadian is in the way of Formula One business. From Bernie Ecclestone and Max Mosley down, those who run the billion-dollar enterprise do *not deny that the Ferrari legend is* life blood to the turnover. Ferrari is more than a motor: it is an emotion, a spirit, a soul machine that quickens the pulse on a global scale. Tomorrow, when the race for the first corner is on, the *intensity will be felt in* the town square of Maranello, near Modena, where Ferrari was conceived 50 years ago, and where cars are still designed and dreamt.

As the green light goes, the cars will be catapulted out of stillness ... past the trackside hospital, then 400 yards into the first hairpin, unimaginatively called *Curva Expo 92. Whoever is first* into that will be devilishly hard to pass on a tight and bumpy circuit of high-speed corners. The heat will rub away at the tyres, the *unrelenting G-forces will erode the* concentration of the drivers.

In Maranello, it will be difficult to move and to breathe, also. Giancarlo Bertacchini, the mayor of this town of 15,000 people, has *ordered a giant outdoor screen,* plentiful bottles of Lambrusco — "Rosso of Maranello". He also plans, perhaps presumptuously, to toll the bells of the town for three days — in the morning when the workers go into the factory, *and in the evening* when they leave. Unsurprisingly, there are Ferrari owners and aficionados heading by the thousand to that town in mid-Italy.

> 'Ferrari is an emotion that quickens the pulse'

With due respect to Williams, already the constructors' champions again, nothing quite like that will happen in Grove, Oxfordshire, where the British car is *made.*

It is not that Frank Williams, the team owner, is cold-blooded. Certainly not that Villeneuve hungers less for the crown than Michael Schumacher. The Italian psyche pulsates through two sports: England has already put a tremor into the heart of Italian football and now, though Williams is powered by a Renault engine, there is fear *that British engineering can deny* the scarlet Ferrari.

You see, we are caught up in Enzo Ferrari's passion play. His cars have won 113 grands prix: he purported never to be the businessman, but he knew that victory *was to the cunning. And surely* Ferrari knew how rumour-mongering gives an extra *frisson* to the game. The Formula One bosses actively encourage conspiracy talk, the spicier the better. Consequently, we are told about the *blocking manoeuvres, the possibility* of man pushing man and machine beyond the limits. This applies not only to the main rivals, Schumacher and Villeneuve, but also to their team-mates, Eddie Irvine and Heinz-Harald Frentzen. Indeed, a fifth name, that of Ralf Schumacher, who owes his brother plenty after their collision at Nürburgring, is brought into play.

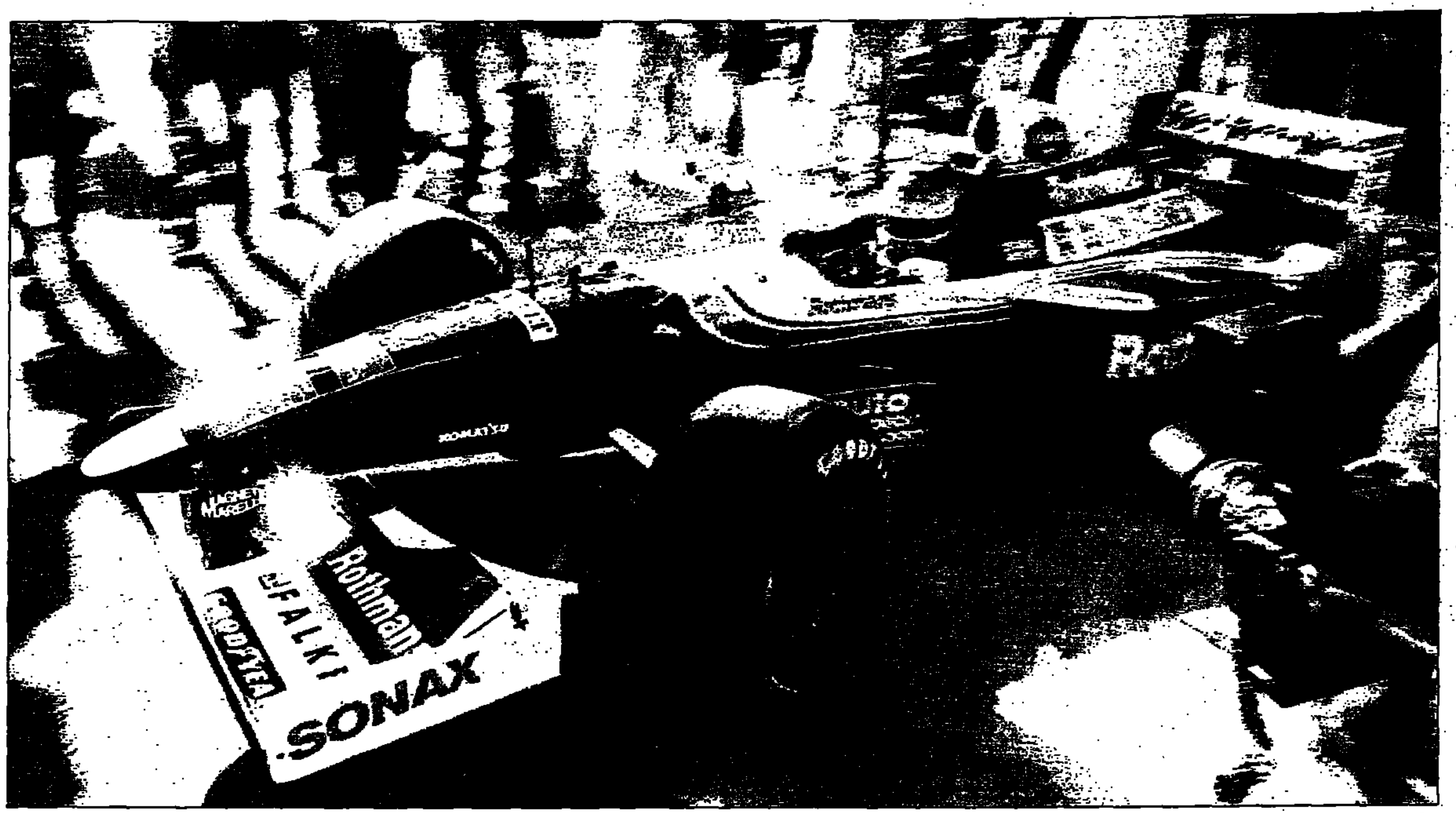
The fear is diced with deadliness. The race might come *down to the nerve in* Villeneuve, because no one questions Michael Schumacher's control of mind and matter — he is, after all, fourth in the list of all-time grand-prix winners. Villeneuve, of course, does not lack heart. Indeed, some accuse him of having too much, bordering on addiction to danger.

> 'Formula One bosses encourage talk of conspiracy'

If the race goes the full distance, there will be 69 laps on a circuit that demands 27 gear changes per lap. That, you would think, is enough of an adrenalin surge, enough of a demand on the mind and body of each protagonist, without fanning the flames of *speculation. The stress is on metal* as much as man, and no one *pretends* that if Schumacher was in the Williams the race would be no contest. Williams are still, unarguably, the master engineers, though Ferrari is an enlarging *image in the driver's mirrors.*

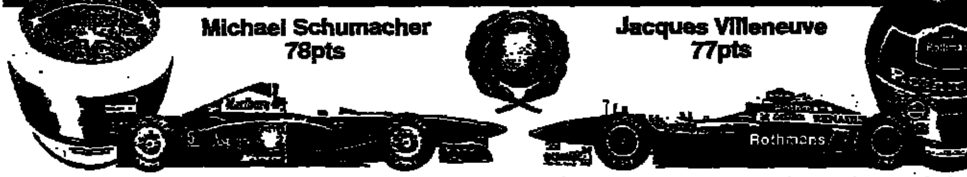
The rivals are feigning nonchalance, pretending that they will find tomorrow fun, intriguing, but nothing outside their experience. Walking around Jerez are Jody Scheckter and Niki Lauda, the previous two Ferrari drivers to taste the *unique thrill, the spiritual* sensation of winning in that very special vehicle. Neither Scheckter nor Lauda, though, can truly know what is inside the the head of a racer as consummate as Schumacher. They were racers of their own time, and time, the business and the sport have *moved on at alarming speeds of* progression. However, one wonderful motor racer, imperious in the Fifties, did leave a legacy of words that all those on the track in practice today and in the race tomorrow should heed.

I am thinking of Juan Manuel Fangio, the world champion in a Ferrari in 1956, who said: "The art of motor racing is to steer a line as close to the edge of death as possible — but always to err on the *side of life.*"



Villeneuve leaves the Williams garage for the first free practice at Jerez yesterday, knowing sentiment will demand a Ferrari win tomorrow. Photograph: Dusan Vranic

HOW THE TITLE WILL BE DECIDED



Michael Schumacher 78pts

Jacques Villeneuve 77pts

With one point between the two drivers the world championship will go to whoever finishes in front of the other in Jerez tomorrow. If Schumacher fails to finish or finishes outside the top six, Villeneuve must finish at least sixth to earn the point that *will put him level. Villeneuve would then be champion for the first time because he has scored more victories during the* season (seven to Schumacher's five). Under Formula One's scoring system, a win is worth 10 points, second place 6, third 4, fourth 3, fifth 2 and sixth 1. Schumacher has already won two titles, in 1994 and 1995.

WHERE THEY SCORED THEIR POINTS

WINS: 5	Monaco, Canada, France, Belgium, Japan	WINS: 7	Brazil, Argentina, Spain, Britain, Hungary, Austria, Luxembourg
2nds: 3	Australia, San Marino, Germany	2nds: 0	
3rds: 0		3rds: 0	
4ths: 2	Spain, Hungary	4ths: 1	France
5ths: 1	Brazil	5ths: 2	Belgium, Italy
6ths: 2	Italy, Austria	6ths: 0	
DNF: 3	Argentina, Britain, Luxembourg	DNF: 5	Australia, San Marino, Monaco, Canada, Germany. Disqualified: 1 Japan

DNF: Did not finish

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today: ITV 11.50am-1.20pm (qualifying)

Tomorrow: ITV 12.30pm-3.20 (race)

DETAILS FROM JEREZ

PRACTICE TIMES: 1, O Panis (Fr, Prost-Mugen-Honda) 1min 22.735sec; 2, D Hill (GB, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:22.898; 3, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 1:22.922; 4, R Barrichello (Br, Stewart-Ford) 1:22.964; 5, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:23.024; 6, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 1:23.124; 7, J Alesi (Fr, Benetton-Renault) 1:23.174; 8, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:23.440; 9, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1:23.532; 10, R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan-Peugeot) 1:23.678; 11, J Magnussen (Den, Stewart-Ford) 1:23.885; 12, E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 1:23.695; 13, G Berger (Austria, Benetton-Renault) 1:23.923; 14, G Fisichella (It, Jordan-Peugeot) 1:24.265; 15, U Katayama (Japan, Minardi-Hart) 1:24.329; 16, J Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 1:24.507; 17, S Nakano (Japan, Prost-Mugen-Honda) 1:24.735; 18, P Diniz (Br, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:24.797; 19, M Salo (Fin, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:25.025; 20, N Fontana (Arg, Sauber-Petronas) 1:25.134; 21, J Verstappen (Holl, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:25.327; 22, T Marques (Br, Minardi-Hart) 1:26.818.

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS (after 16 races): Drivers: 1, M Schumacher 78pts; Villeneuve 77; 3, Frentzen 41; 4, Alesi 36; 5, Coulthard 30; 6, Berger 24; 7, Irvine 22; 8, Fisichella 20; 9, Hakkinen 17; 10, Panis 16; 11, Herbert 14; 12, R Schumacher 13; 13, Hill 7; 14, Barrichello 6; 15, A Wurz (Austria, Benetton-Renault) 4; 16, J Trulli (It, Prost Mugen-Honda) 3; equal 17, Salo, Nakano and Diniz 2. 20, N Larini (It, Sauber-Petronas) 1. Constructors: 1, Williams-Renault 120pts; 2, Ferrari 100; 3, Benetton-Renault 63; 4, McLaren-Mercedes 47; 5, Jordan-Peugeot 33; 6, Prost Mugen-Honda 21; 7, Sauber-Petronas 15; 8, Arrows-Yamaha 9; 9, Stewart-Ford 6; 10, Tyrrell-Ford 2.

GRAND PRIX TO COME: Tomorrow: European (Jerez).

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One race to go to decide £25,000 top prize

With up to 600 bonus points available in tomorrow's European Grand Prix for the managers who correctly predict the first three drivers to cross the finishing line, the race for our £25,000 top prize is still *wide open.* Printed below are the results of the Japanese Grand Prix which have been adjusted to take account of Jacques Villeneuve's disqualification in Japan. These results differ from those published last Friday. Heading our leaderboard is A Bradley of Godalming, Surrey. *His team, Slickhead 3,* scored 649 points at Suzuka to take his cumulative score in the competition to 11,866 points. Hot on his tail in second position is I Dowty of Reigate, Surrey. His team, *Dow Jones 2,* scored 625 points in Japan to take his total to 11,854 in the competition. P Wright of Lytham St Anne's wins a trip for two to next year's *British GP. His team, Blunderbus, scored 805 points in* Japan. S Leason of Uttoxeter (It's the Pits, 802 points) wins a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom game.

THE PRIZES The manager with the best team score after tomorrow's Grand Prix will win the first prize of £25,000 courtesy of our sponsor Marlboro World Championship team. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go *to two runners-up. Race* prizes are a trip for two to next year's British GP and a Sony PlayStation, and CD-Rom game. **CHECK YOUR SCORE** by calling *0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK).*

OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE JAPANESE GRAND PRIX

POS	TEAM NAME	MANAGER NAME	POINTS
1	Slickhead 3	A Bradley	11866
2	Dow Jones 2	I Dowty	11854
3	Wood Racing	M Wood	11759
3	Raith Rovers F C	D Shepherd	11759
5	Team U D O	P Walley	11631
6	Mosulvie	J Madden	11627
7	Forza 27	M Joannides	11598
8	Valley Crewe	S Rattley	11571
9	Waite Racing F1	P Waite	11557
10	No Hopers	P Zeinalabedini	11553
11	Slay 'em	Ms A Sleigh	11536
12	Sky Stars	A McPhee	11496
12	Fanfair Racing	R Crosby	11496
12	Diamond	M Parsons	11496
12	Burridge Racing	I Burridge	11496
12	Grow 97	P McKinney	11496
12	Sensasational 5	G Curry	11496
18	Bet A Ton	M Dymond	11493
19	The Very Real Club	J Heighway	11482
19	Red Menace 1	M Power	11482
19	Mant's Maniacs	M Johnson	11482
19	Thompson Terrors	A Thompson	11482
19	Rufus II	S Daniels	11482
19	Bangers	R Mullen	11482
19	Mark's Wizards	H Evans	11482
19	-	A Pearce	11482
19	Stevie G1	S Georgiadis	11482
19	Adam's Autos	C Adams	11482
19	Harris Rule Racers	N Roberts	11482
19	GFO	A Gent	11482
19	Georgie	M Clark	11482
19	Snic Racing	N Trott	11482

MAKE 3 SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THESE FOUR GROUPS

The first column of figures, in light type after the names below, shows the revised Fantasy Formula One race scores for the Japanese GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far.

DRIVERS GROUP A

01 D Hill	101	1213	07 M Hakkinen	107	1188
02 M Schumacher	146	1862	08 D Coulthard	83	1345
03 J Villeneuve	0	1638	09 R Barrichello	12	782
04 E Irvine	118	1359	10 H-H Frentzen	147	1557
05 J Alesi	106	1739	11 J Herbert	104	1420
06 G Berger	102	1477	12 M Salo	36	1219

DRIVERS GROUP B

13 O Panis*	44	1656	19 G Fisichella	102	1482
14 J Verstappen	101	1060	20 S Nakano	25	1040
15 U Katayama	7	861	21 G Morbidelli*	0	1387
16 P Diniz	95	960	22 T Marques*	44	872
17 R Rosset	0	0	23 J Magnussen	7	783
18 R Schumacher	102	1124	24 V Sospiri	0	0

CONSTRUCTORS GROUP C			CONSTRUCTORS GROUP D		
25 Williams	25	260	31 Arrows	16	4
26 Ferrari	30	250	32 Sauber	11	190
27 McLaren	13	122	33 Tyrrell	4	2
28 Benetton	22	294	34 Minardi	-20	8
29 Jordan	20	147	35 Stewart	-20	-157
30 Prost	-20	114	36 Lola	0	0

*Oliver Panis replaces Jarno Trulli in the Prost team.
Tarso Marques replaces Trulli at Minardi and at Sauber Gianni Morbidelli, who originally replaced Nicola Larini, replaces Fontana

WINNERS AND FULL RESULTS WILL APPEAR NEXT SATURDAY

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls).

CHANGING TIMES

World title rivals go head to head

Continued from page 33

do this, we must do that'. But, ultimately, he is confident he can do his job."

Ninth place in free practice, six positions behind Villeneuve, *is no real gauge of* either man's prospects. Such sessions are mere shadow boxing, a search for the right set-up for a twisty circuit set in the parched, sherry-producing plains of Andalucia. The race will take real shape this afternoon *in the qualifying session.*

Villeneuve romanticises the challenge of a one-off lap that allows him close to the fabled "edge", that invisible barrier between bravery and foolishness that preoccupies all racing drivers. Schumacher is more calculating but equally committed.

"It's going to be a question of who keeps his head," Hill, second quickest yesterday, said. "They will have eyes only *for each other and the one* who doesn't get distracted will win. That's difficult, because of the chaos that swirls around you in this situation, but it's a critical part of the job of being a racing driver.

"Jacques doesn't take advice *terribly easily and he has* already had one trip to the gravel trap. I still feel a Williams is more competitive here than a Ferrari, but it is not as simple as that. So many other factors come into play.

"A one-off race for the title is the most exciting, intriguing *and challenging* aspect of our sport. It is the ultimate test. Can you handle a showdown for the championship? Can you pull something out of *yourself which is better than* anything you have ever produced? You don't know until you have to."

Ill-fortune, such as Nigel Mansell's exploding tyre in 1986, is part of the folklore of Formula One, but the inevitable *speculation* that the title could be decided in an accident has the strength of precedent. Alain Prost, Senna and Schumacher have all become champions in controversial circumstances in the past ten years.

Hill, Schumacher's victim *in Adelaide in 1994,* smiled ruefully at the memory of personal injustice, but preferred to illustrate his point with his late father Graham's *failure in 1964. He span out* under assault by Lorenzo Bandini, whose Ferrari team-mate, John Surtees, went on to win the title.

"Something always seems to happen when it comes down to the wire," Hill said. "It seems to be too much of a temptation. That's sad because I still like to think of this as a sport. It should be about being the best, out-driving all others, *not about being sufficiently* bullish, or brutish, to take the guy out."

BOXING

Schwer at the crossroads of his career

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN ZARAGOZA

BILLY SCHWER should *find* out here tonight, when he challenges Oscar Garcia, of Spain, for the European title, what his prospects are of coming back into contention for the world championship.

The former British and *Commonwealth lightweight* champion fell from grace after his surprising defeat by David Tetteh, of Ghana, in 1995. Schwer fought his way back to *earn European Boxing Union* nomination as challenger and if he lifts the title here, he will become one of the leading world contenders.

Defeat could cause *him* concern about his career.

Schwer's failure to impress against Alan Temple, of Hartlepool, and Jean Moulun, of *France, last year caused many* to believe that his hard contests had started taking their toll. But his father, Billy Schwer Sr, said yesterday that *those two performances* should be put down to lack of motivation caused by domestic and dietary worries.

Schwer is now back to his old *self* and *his manager,* Mickey Duff, believes that he will stop Garcia in the middle rounds.

SAILING

Defiant Dickson still harbours victory hope

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN CAPE TOWN

CHRIS DICKSON, of New Zealand, the pre-race favourite, finally brought *Toshiba* into *Cape Town* in *sixth* position yesterday, three days after the first-leg winner, Paul Cayard, on *EF Language.* Despite this unexpectedly poor start, though, Dickson seemed confident about his overall chances in the *Whitbread Round* the World Race.

"It is by no means a disaster," he said after his boat had powered her way to the *finish line under spinnaker on* a glorious morning. The key moment, he added, had been four weeks ago when the fleet leaders were becalmed off *Cape Finisterre.*

"On day four we had *Silk Cut, Merit Cup* and *Innovation Kvaerner* on the radar and we were all on the *favoured starboard tack,"* he said. "They got the new breeze before us and held on to it for two hours, then stayed on the back of it for two days, while *we had only two minutes of it."*

Dickson said he and his frustrated crew finally got going about 36 hours later, long after the boats to the west *had got away. From then on* the crew managed by Team Dennis Conner was trapped in a running order always favouring the leaders. "There weren't any passing lanes. We have been paying for something *that happened four* weeks ago," he said. Dickson's analysis reinforces the impression that the first leg of this nine-leg marathon may turn out to be unrepresentative of what is to come.

Toshiba's arrival was preceded by that of *Chessie Racing,* skippered by Mark Fischer, which came in to a rousing welcome after a strong first-leg performance. The campaign's owner, George Collins, expressed delight with his crew's performance, which saw them duelling with *Silk Cut* for *more than* a week before the British boat got away in light airs. "We do not have much Whitbread experience but hopefully we are still climbing *the learning curve,"* said Collins, who is bringing in the American Admiral's Cup sailor, Dee Smith, for the next leg.

After *Toshiba, America's Challenge,* skippered by Ross Field, came in to claim seventh position, followed by another of the fancied boats, *Swedish Match,* under Gunnar Krantz, who described the past 32 days as "painful".

Obituaries, page 25

GOLF

Cold Waugh too fierce for Prosser

SHANI WAUGH, of Australia, *completed a flawless* opening round of 67, four under par, in a biting cold wind *to* lead the field in the 54-hole Air France women's Open at Deauville in France yesterday.

Waugh finished the day *one stroke ahead of Sally* Prosser, of Britain. Alison Nicholas, the US Open champion, and Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, who are attempting to overtake Helen Alfredsson, of Sweden, for the No 1 place in Europe, returned rounds of 73.

It was a relieved Waugh who arrived in France *from* the US LPGA Tour, where she produced five strong finishes to retain her playing card for next year. "It was a great relief and I can now plan for *next* year," she said.

Three birdies in four holes from the 12th, after starting her round from the 10th tee, laid the *foundations* for Waugh. She found sand to drop her solitary shot of the day at the 7th, then completed her day with a birdie from 20 feet at her final hole.

☐ Paul McGinley, of Ireland, shared the lead with Michael Campbell, *of New Zealand,* after adding a round of 67 to his opening 66 in the Oki Pro-Am in Madrid yesterday.

هكذا من الإصل

Rugby? Kick it off the park for good

Like the British people's much trumpeted love of animals, which is so often distressingly at odds with matters of public record, I still take a lot of convincing that, as a nation, we actually like football. If we did we wouldn't be so desperate to keep alive the rotting corpse of rugby.

Consider this. Of the five schools local to me lucky enough to have playing fields adjoining them, there are an incredible 11 *rugby* pitches in operation. Full-sized *rugby pitches*. What on earth is that all about? That's almost one pitch per fan for this district and it is rooted in an authoritarian yearning of how things should be instead of how they actually are.

The coverage rugby gets and the scandalous time and space it receives at school level does not tally with actual public need or interest and it hasn't done for at least 50 years. How many times must we underline in big black ink that rugby, as part of the curriculum, is nothing but a residual tail, like Latin or potato printing. A spiteful middle-class imposition against populist wishes.

Why on earth schools still drag out the big Hs and try to indoctrinate susceptible 11-year olds that Here Is Something Worth Mastering when rugby matches are so sparsely attended you could hunt caribou in the grandstand beggars belief. The battle's over, boys. Football won. Everyone wants to play football all the time and nobody wants to play rugby. Be big. Swallow it. Trouble is, the rugbyist is as potty and vocal as any *Dr Who*-craving oddball with access to the Internet.

I used to placate frothing rugby maniacs with phrases like "Nobody wants to kill it off, just get it in proportion", but now I have fine-tuned that approach. I *do* want to kill it off. It has, for me, come to represent The Man. It is the Anti-Sport. It is a selfish, self-serving blip that despite sinister and well-organised pressure groups has been publicly disowned and discredited.

Happily, at the fabulous old dump I attended, we never had rugby thrust upon us, but echoes of The Rugby Idea could always be found in the nanny-like way, come Christmas, football had to stop and hopeless boss-eyed affairs like shot-put and hop skip and jump had to be indulged in because, well, we were told, sport wasn't just football. Well no, sport can be boxing, horseracing, fishing, poker and snooker, but those were never given as options, and in most schools still aren't. What they meant was: "*Oh you LIKE sport do you? Well we'll show you it's not all fun and games.*"

This same nanny/rugby thought also triumphs when all public parks ritually take down the football goals on a designated date in spring. Nobody knows why they do this. One day you've got football goals with teams gagging to get at them — the next they've had the midnight knock and been disappeared. So down go the shirts and bags where the posts used to be and the matches continue as usual. The council stubbornly refuses to bring those posts back until the rulebook says so. It's a bit like removing the lockers from the local lido every November because someone else feels you oughtn't swim in the cold weather.

However, nothing, *nothing*, says more about a nation living in sporting denial than the 11 smirking rugby pitches in one corner of South East London. I confess, though, far from being an actual member of Class War, it's true that when I dream these days, it is increasingly of H-shaped Welsh holiday cottages and attractive boxes of Swan Vestas.

Hmmm. I have much more to say on this theme but possibly a lot of readers are looking at me with cold, squinting eyes right now. Besides, in a moment I'm bound to drift over into what *I* feel is The Real Meaning of Cricket and that might push you right over the odds.

☐ **Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday from 5.30pm.**

Helen and Tim, best of the bunch

TODAY far and away the airwaves' best football show celebrates its 50th edition. It is *Soccer AM* on Sky Sports 2, which has been a quiet riot for some time now while more post-modern and testosteroney vehicles have been grabbing the laddish attention. There are no better spots anywhere in sports broadcasting than Third Eye, Showboating and Pub Commentary, and Helen Chamberlain and Tim Lovejoy, who present the show, are the best TV pairing since Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin fronted *The Big Breakfast*.

Quite why the rest of the "straighter" football shows at the station haven't embraced and trumpeted these two and their approach is deeply suspicious. Serve them right if they jump ship and rejuvenate the World Cup on ITV.

"Oi, ref, what are you up to? City's a big club you know. You can't give a penalty against *us*"

Face it, City. You're history

THERE'S a scene in *The Deer Hunter* when Robert De Niro holds up a bullet to his drunken workmate and says: "You see this, Stanley? This is this. This ain't something else. This is this." Like the rest of the baffled audience I received this information with a sly grin and sophisticated nod but actually had no idea what it meant — until this week when I found myself in a screaming match with a Manchester City supporter. For it suddenly occurred to me that this man, like most City supporters and a great number of fans of other so-called "sleeping giants", still thought that he supported a Big Side. That it was only a matter of time and tinkering until they inevitably shook off these minnows they have been boarding with and swanked around The Big League again lighting cigars with five-pound notes.

He really believed that teams such as City and Sunderland or Leeds and Liverpool come to that, ruled by divine right. What has so stirred up the Maine Road mob recently is not so much that their side might struggle to nick a draw with the Spice Girls but that the whole "division one thing" has become tedious. They're bored with it. Rather grandly, they have become *impatient*.

When City were relegated it was with an insouciant yawn and the certain notion that once they'd spanked a few small-fry bottoms, they would return to the Premiership as sure as night follows day. They, after all, were Manchester City. But chaps. Preston were once Manchester City. So were Blackpool. And Fulham. West Brom and Burnley.

It happens.

While all glory may be fleeting, it's obscurity that can live forever. Man City, this is not a crisis. This is this.

☐ I AM writing this ten minutes before Man Utd play Feyenoord. I predict a 2-2 draw. *(Pause)*. Woohoo! I reckon I placed.

Wimps of the Arctic

DURING the Tromso v Chelsea tie the commentator was more than once to be heard stating that the pitch was so bad it might be refused by a Sunday side. For shame. No pitch is too bad for the dedicated amateur. Not 20 minutes from where I type these words is barmy Brockwell Park, home to a selection of pitches so sloped that no sensible side sets out to attempt a fixture without crampons, safety harnesses and a crack team of sherpas. I once met a bunch of squaddies who told me of the intense matches staged within the belly of a massive tank transporter flying at 30,000ft. If one side came too close to a winning goal, a simple coded bang on the fuselage would send the plane nose-diving at the crucial moment. I have close friends who, on being faced with a night in the cells, introduced themselves to their fellow internees, went three-a-side and were only cheated of ultimate victory when the bread roll they were using as the ball gave up the good fight and shattered into a thousand pieces. So whatever reasons are used to disguise Chelsea's limp participation in The Trouncing in Tromso, please let us not suppose that we are all such babies.

☐ I AM writing this ten minutes before the start of Strasbourg and Liverpool. I predict Liverpool will win 2-1.

(Pause.)

I'm getting worse at this.

Who are these weirdos?

IF YOU are a subscriber to satellite you'll know that the coverage for a game kicking off at 7.45pm usually begins at three the previous day. This is all well and good and adds to the subtle powder-keg type build-up. However, am I alone in phasing out the breathless Richard Keyes's opening speech — "Welcome indeed to Highfield Road where, in just under five hours' time, troubled Coventry City will do battle with an out-of-sorts Southampton and I'm delighted to say our guests, Kevin Moran and Brian Kilcline, will be with us every step of the way!" — in order to peer across his blazered shoulder at the smattering of lunatics who are *in the ground already*?

As Butch Cassidy was fond of saying: "Who are those guys?" Who, in their right mind gets to a football ground with hours to spare? Have they not pubs to go to? Yet there they are. And the most curious part of all is that they never seem to be claiming some plum spot either. They will perch up to the left or apologetically at the back of the family enclosure.

So who are they? One reasonable explanation is that they are simply warm bodies pressed into service by Sky in order to convince us that here is a very hot ticket indeed. The only other argument I'll accept is that they are harmless dummies left over from that peculiar era when Arsenal were so squeamish about building work in progress at Highbury that they painted a hideous mural at one end of the ground to create the illusion that it was full. It's well documented that many clubs lobbied for the introduction of the more docile imaginary spectator over the troublesome flesh and blood real thing. Perhaps it is this influence that flickers on today, glimpsed only by the keen-eyed during Sky's Feast of Football.

☐ I AM writing this ten minutes before Chelsea play Tromso. I foresee the result but, to be honest, I'd sooner suck on Ken Bates's beard than betray my lifelong abhorrence of these showbiz kids and play some psychic part in their victory. *(Pause)*. You know what? I love football . . .

Big pitch for mass appeal

AFTER a gap of 150 years, cricket is to go back on the road in an attempt to popularise itself with the masses (Simon Wilde writes). Next year, from March to September, a four-man team and an articulated truck containing three portable pitches and equipment is to tour the country, making two-day stops at seaside resorts, shopping centres and county shows in an attempt to reach new audiences.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) hopes to raise the game's profile with young people, who will be encouraged to seek further involvement. The roadshow, which will be funded by the board's recent sponsorship deal with Vodaphone, plans to visit as many of the ECB's 38 member counties as possible and work with their youth development officers.

Cricket achieved nationwide popularity after William Clarke took his All England XI around the Midlands and the North in the 1840s. It led to the birth of the county championship.

Darren Gough helped out as the roadshow spent the first of four days at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, yesterday. "This is part of the build-up to the 1999 World Cup," he said. "If we get people interested, they can help us win it and they can start to play themselves."

CRICKET: MIDDLESEX SPINNER FACING RANDOM TESTS DURING 18-MONTH PROBATION PERIOD

Drugs verdict frees Tufnell for England tour of West Indies

By Alan Lee, cricket correspondent

PHILIP TUFNELL preserved his England career yesterday by persuading a disciplinary hearing at Lords that his failure to take a routine drugs test last month was neither conscious nor calculating. He did not escape punishment but has effectively been put on probation rather than suspended, leaving him free to tour West Indies in the new year.

Tufnell, who was chosen randomly for a test during Middlesex's final championship match of the season, at Chelmsford, was fined £1,000 and must pay £250 towards the costs of the hearing. He is also subject to an 18-month ban, suspended on condition that he undertakes drugs tests at unspecified times both later this year and during 1998. He has 14 days to appeal, which seems an improbable contingency.

It could be thought that Tufnell has escaped lightly. There will doubtless be suspicions of a convenient leniency in the national cause. This, however, was not a straightforward case and it came down to the judgment of a five-man panel that one of England's renowned cricketers had not been trying to avoid detection; indeed, that his actions were not deliberate at all.

This was not the finest hour of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). The claims of the new governing body that it rules openly sat uncomfortably with the presentation of a press conference by a single officer, the chief executive, Tim Lamb, who pre-empted questions with the disclaimer that he had no knowledge of the detailed proceedings.

It would seem, however, that Tufnell related that he had been unable to produce a satisfactory urine sample during the lunch interval on the relevant day and that, preoccupied by an eye infection, he had simply forgotton to return at the close of play. Short of concluding that he was lying, the panel had little option but to impose something short of the maximum sentence, which is as severe for avoiding a drugs test as for failing it.

Tufnell, who was accompanied by his Middlesex captain, Mark Ramprakash, faced four charges of breaching the anti-doping regulations and admitted to two. However, he strongly denied the other two, which related to his awareness and motivation in avoiding the tests, and the panel dismissed these charges.

In the absence of the chairman of the panel, Gerard Elias, Lamb was left to grope his way through the judgment but insisted there had been no thought given to Tufnell's England commitments. "The integrity of the regulations is more important than selection for a national side," he said.

Lamb added: "It is accepted by all concerned that the player was distinctly unwell on the day and he said his mind was in a turmoil. He argued that he forgot to take the test and the panel had to decide whether to accept this. Each case of this nature has to be treated on its merits and we should not underestimate the severity of the punishment handed down."

Lamb admitted that the episode has raised questions about the efficiency of the testing procedures and promised: "We shall have to tighten them up to ensure this cannot happen again." But despite four drugs cases coming to jurisdiction in the past 18 months, he remains confident that cricket does not have a problem, for all 140 players who submitted to the procedure this year tested negative.

MARC ASPLAND

Tufnell heads for the Grace Gates at Lord's after receiving the decision of the disciplinary panel

Adams offered Sussex captaincy

By Ivo Tennant

CHRIS ADAMS, the Derbyshire batsman who is considering approaches from other counties, has been offered the captaincy of Sussex. According to his agent, Jonathan Barnett, he is likely to become the highest paid England-qualified cricketer in the country.

Barnett, who represents a number of high-profile cricketers, is appealing against Derbyshire's registration of Adams as a list one player, which limits his options. Hence no decision will be reached over his future until the hearing at Lord's on November 11. Barnett is also threatening the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) with legal action if Adams's status is not changed. "Since the Bosman ruling, Chris should be able to move counties freely," he said.

"We have taken the advice of counsel and there is a very good chance we will resort to the law if Chris does not become a list two player. His main motivation in wanting to leave Derbyshire is not money but to play for England."

Two counties have offered Adams, who has yet to play Test cricket, a salary of almost £100,000. A third, Kent, do not intend matching that, but Derek Ufton, the chairman of their cricket committee, remains hopeful of signing him. Sussex are the only county to offer him the captaincy. If Shane Warne, the Australia leg spinner, had joined them, Adams would have become either captain, in succession to Peter Moores, or vice-captain.

"Chris is likely to be earning a basic salary of around £20,000-£30,000 more than any other English cricketer," Barnett said. "As an agent, I would encourage him to go for the best offer, but he may well not do so as he wants to join the county that gives him the best opportunity of playing Test cricket. The approach by Sussex is an interesting extra consideration."

Tony Pigott, the Sussex chief executive, was cautious when asked whether he expected Adams to join the county. "You do not know what can happen," he said. "We have talked to Chris but clearly there are still several counties after him."

Hugh Morris, 34, the Glamorgan opening batsman, was yesterday appointed the new technical director of the ECB. He will take up his post on November 3, succeeding Micky Stewart, who is due to retire as director of coaching and excellence at the end of the year.

Kirsten thwarts Pakistan

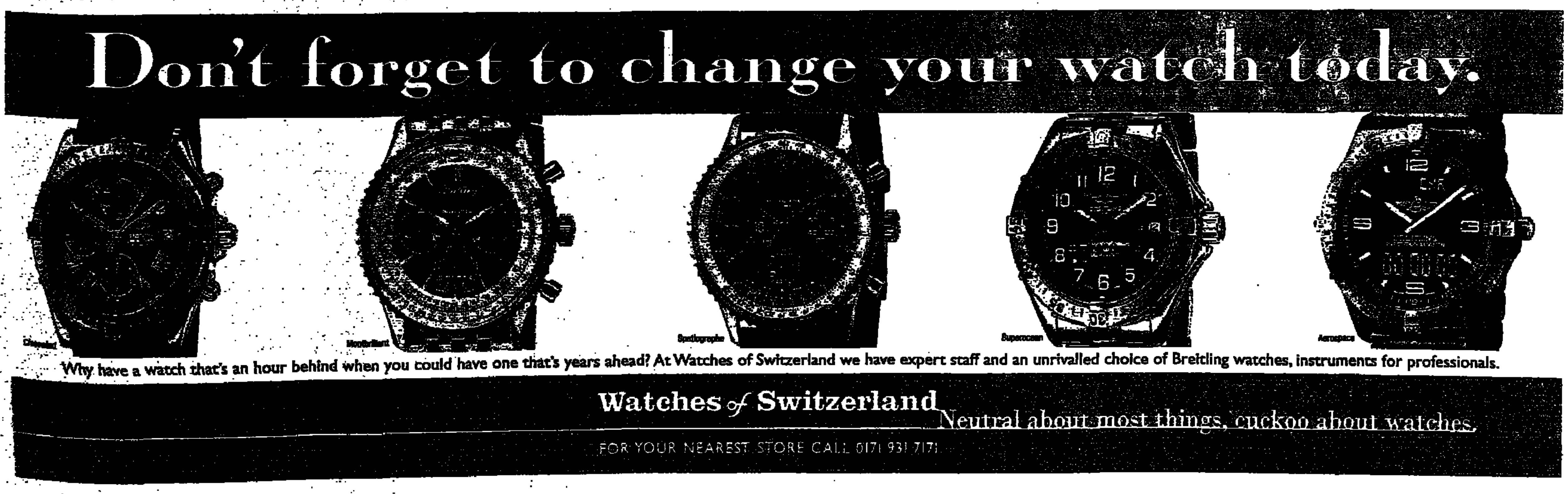
GARY KIRSTEN became the fifth South African to carry his bat through a Test innings yesterday as he led a sterling recovery from 98 for seven on the opening day of the third and final Test against Pakistan in Faisalabad.

South Africa reached 239 thanks to Kirten's century and a pugnacious 81 from Pat Symcox, the spin bowler, with whom he added 124 for the eighth wicket. Pakistan then lost both opening batsmen, Saeed Anwar and Ali Naqvi, while scoring 41 in reply.

Kirsten, 30, finished with exactly 100, his fifth Test century. "It is highly satisfying for me and the best thing is that I saved my team," he said. His stand with Symcox was a record for the eighth wicket against Pakistan in all Tests, beating the 120-run partnership between Madan Lal and Syed Kirmani, of India, at the same ground in 1983. Kirsten hit 15 fours in an innings, which lasted exactly five hours.

South Africa, who were able to recall Allan Donald and David Richardson, lost seven wickets in the first session of the day after Hansie Cronje won the toss. However, the last three wickets added 141, Symcox hitting nine fours and two sixes in a bold innings in which he faced only 83 balls.

Scoreboard, page 41



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هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Referees taken to task by Wenger

By Matt Dickinson

DENNIS BERGKAMP bids farewll to the FA Carling Premiership for more than a month tomorrow, but Arsène Wenger has ensured that his Dutch striker will not be going quietly.

Wenger, the Arsenal manager, is still enraged at the three-match suspension his premier performer has incurred after five bookings this season, and he left no doubt yesterday where he believes the blame lies. "Dennis has never had this problem before," he said. "Sometimes you have the feeling that he is a trophy now for referees. Who would have bet that after eleven games Dennis Bergkamp would have been suspended with five yellow cards?

"Is he the nasty player of the league? I just don't know how it has happened. He is not an angel. He deserved one or two bookings, but certainly not all of them and not the one at Crystal Palace last week. Sometimes he does not get the protection with tackles from behind and defenders pulling on his shirt. Maybe it is because he complains to referees too much about that and they give him a yellow card when he does not deserve it. I will talk to him about it when he has the break."

The international break in the middle of next month means that Bergkamp will sign off at home to Aston Villa tomorrow and then not be seen in Premiership action until November 30, in the home game against Liverpool, although he may be called up in the Coca-Cola Cup.

Arsenal appear half the side without him, and maintaining the leadership of the Premiership will not be easy as he misses games against Derby County, Manchester United and Sheffield Wednesday. Bergkamp has scored ten goals in eleven league games this season, and his absence for the Uefa Cup first-round, first-leg encounter with PAOK Salonika, when Wenger's side lost 1-0, exposed Arsenal's lack of attacking options when they are without him.

'They seem prepared to put limbs and livelihoods at risk. It is plain that the match should not have started'

GARY M. PRIOR / ALLSPORT

Di Matteo tends Babayaro, his fallen Chelsea team-mate, on the snowbound pitch in Tromso. The Nigerian could count himself fortunate that he was not seriously injured in such difficult conditions

Chelsea get drift of Uefa's whim

BRIAN GLANVILLE

"You have to see something green on the pitch," Ruud Gullit said after the fiasco of Chelsea's Cup Winners' Cup match in northern Norway on Thursday. And the fact of the matter was that one saw scarcely any green at all, unless one raised one's eyes above both pitch and terraces to look at the majestic fir trees.

There has been some criticism of the way that Chelsea played in such outrageous circumstances. A *schadenfreude*, one might say: giant-killers are always popular in cup competitions, whether they be the Walsall team of 1933 that humbled mighty Arsenal or the Tromso team that beat Chelsea 3-2 and could easily have doubled their score.

Arsenal, all those years ago, could present the excuse of a weakened team and an indulgent referee. Chelsea's extenuation was somewhat more solid. It was plain that the game should never have started and plainer still from half-time onwards, when the snow came down, that the referee should have abandoned proceedings.

I MAY BE GONE SOME TIME
10
NB

"I asked the Uefa man," Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, said, "what did he think about it. He said: 'I can understand your point of view, but the game has to go on because of the busy schedule of Uefa.' "

This, with its implications, was a scandalous response. As one who has spent years trying, with a good deal of obstruction from Uefa, to unravel the murky manoeuvres of Italian clubs in European football, I have never had much faith in the European governing body. Money talks, but now it has grown so cacophonous that there is no chance of anyone or anything else being heard.

There was a significant moment in the second half on Thursday when Celestine Babayaro, Chelsea's precocious Nigerian left back, slipped after making a challenge and fell awkwardly on the snow. There was every possibility that he had hurt himself badly. After all, the worst injuries, as Alan Shearer knows only too well, often occur in the most banal circumstances.

In the event, Babayaro, who had never seen snow in his life, was able to get up and play on. But a pitch like this, in weather like that, constitutes a serious risk to limbs.

"Like I said, I am a guy who likes to play football, but to play football in normal circumstances," Gullit said. "It's very difficult to get into the right mood. We were 60 per cent in possession of the ball, the only thing was that it was difficult to get through."

Tromso did not find it difficult at all. True, they scored their third goal when Chelsea were trying to replace Leboeuf with Myers, leaving them a man short in defence, but, against that, the Norwegians made a myriad of chances, several of which were missed by their burly, blond centre forward, Lange. He, with his fellow hefty blond, Aarst, gave Chelsea's faltering defence a terrible testing.

The way to play in such appalling circumstances was clearly to cut out the ornamental and, if you had big men up front,to bang the ball long and swiftly upfield to them — bang it so that they could chase it, rather than be obliged to turn, as the Chelsea attackers so often were, on the shocking surface.

Conditions certainly deteriorated in the second half. As Gullit said: "The second obstacle [the pitch apart] was we played against the wind, against the snow. It gets into your eyes. You can't see nothing, and the ball didn't bounce. It was nothing to do with football."

It certainly was not and the whole picture comes into perspective when you reflect on how poorly Tromso had been doing until this game, losing five out of their previous seven matches and being obliged to play in a relegation play-off. It is ironic indeed that the first leg, next Sunday, will take place in an indoor stadium.

Did some Chelsea players give a great deal less than others? Was the team immensely fortunate to be saved from humiliation by Gianluca Vialli's two dramatic goals? The answer could well be positive, but again, even in the first half, the muddy parody of a pitch scarcely encouraged artists of the likes of Gianfranco Zola and Roberto di Matteo.

Vialli, by contrast, having done little, came suddenly and vibrantly to life in the closing minutes. Each of his goals came after a gem of a solo run, but with characteristic modesty he said that he had been helped by the mud, which had restricted the movement of the defenders opposing him.

It is to be hoped that Chelsea enter an official protest with Uefa at having been forced to play in such circumstances. How fortunate and unexpected that the Uefa official should so utterly give the game away with his remarks to Gullit.

If all that matters now is money, if players' limbs and livelihoods are to be put at risk, then it is time that members of Uefa, whether they be clubs or national associations, rose up and proclaimed their disgust.

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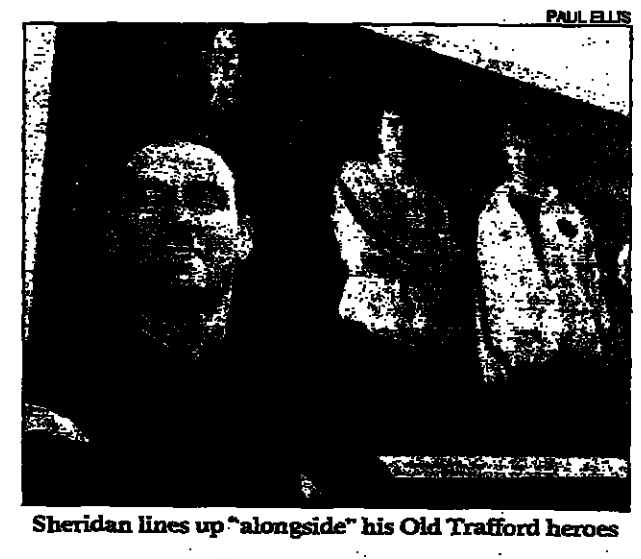
CHANGING TIMES

Sheridan realises dream the second time around

PAUL ELLIS



Sheridan lines up "alongside" his Old Trafford heroes

LIFE AT THE TOP

Old Trafford is busy as usual. We are still a few days away from the next match but people mill all around holding carrier bags bulging with Manchester United paraphernalia.

Darren Sheridan, shoulders rolling, walks through the throng unnoticed. He is a short, stocky man with an unpretentious manner and an unpretentious haircut, one of those that is the preserve of barbers of a certain age who smoke while they work, cough into the back of your neck and have more opinions than they do clean combs.

"I'm playing at Old Trafford on Saturday," Sheridan tells his coughing coiffeur. "Aye, and I'm singing with Frank Sinatra the weekend after next," is the retort. "It's a dream come true, isn't it?" Sheridan says, for the third time in ten minutes.

Footballers make statements like that all the time. Everything is a dream come true — the last goal, the next game, the impending transfer, the sponsorship deal with Reebok. The difference is that this is the real thing. A Mancunian and a Manchester United supporter, he will take his place in the Barnsley team against United at Old Trafford today. If he looks more like a postman, baker, warehouseman or labourer than he does a footballer, it is no coincidence because, at various times, he was all of those until a few years ago.

Like his older brother, John, Sheridan was an apprentice footballer with Leeds United. While John went on to play regularly for Leeds and later with Sheffield Wednesday and Bolton Wanderers, Darren was released at 18 by Billy Bremner, then the Leeds manager. "I thought that was the end of it," Sheridan said. "I believed it when I was told I wasn't good enough. John was always saying I could make it in football, but I suppose I just gave up." After a stint playing for a pub team in Stretford, Sheridan was picked up by Winsford United, of the UniBond League, where he spent four seasons. During that period he held various jobs on short contracts and watched Manchester United as often as possible. On one occasion he was out of work and offered to call at the shops for bread and milk for his mother. On his way he met two friends about to board a train to London for a United game against Arsenal. "I got £60 out of the bank and went with them. I ended up swinging this loaf around my head on the terraces. My mam wasn't happy when I got back!" he said. Seven years after his rejection by Leeds, Sheridan finally became a professional footballer when he was offered a contract by Barnsley in 1993. He had to leave the Dannimac warehouse in Trafford Park, Manchester, where he worked in stock control. He has been a fixture in midfield for the past three seasons, where his combative, scurrying approach has formed a protective vanguard for Barnsley's more expansive play. The opponent in his path today is likely to be David Beckham, and the contrast could not be greater. While Beckham dates a Spice Girl, Sheridan lives modestly within a mile of Old Trafford with his girlfriend, Jannette, and their two young daughters.

Beckham has patronage from pan-global companies while Sheridan is happy that a local ironmonger sponsors his kit. Beckham's annual income will be at least 15 times greater than Sheridan's. They will be equals for just 90 minutes on the pitch today.

Sheridan describes himself as a "biter around the ankles" player and he will be doing just that against United. "I don't feel out of place at all, me. I love it. I think we've got to get nastier as a team, if you know what I mean. There are some very clever players in the league and we've got to get among them. I think we've been showing them too much respect," he said.

Off the pitch, Sheridan is notoriously laid-back, to the point of not knowing the surname of some of his team-mates. "I couldn't say half of the names of the foreign lads even if I could remember," he said. "I just say: 'Hey, give me the ball,' and they usually do." He also has problems with the Yorkshire dialect spoken in Barnsley. "It cracks me up," he said. "They come up to me and tell me I'm a chuffin' good player or a reet good 'un."

He smiles constantly, as if, between speaking, he is telling himself private jokes. It is not an expression of smugness; in fact, is quite endearing. "Wouldn't you be smiling?" he asks. "One minute I'm in a warehouse working all hours, and now I'm about to play at Old Trafford. It's a dream come true, isn't it?" There he goes again.

MARK HODKINSON

هكذا من الإصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Villain turns hero once more

It is 16 months since *that* penalty and Gareth Southgate has emerged a stronger character

OLIVER HOLT

It was hard to take everything in when the final whistle blew on that sultry night in Rome. Glenn Hoddle, John Gorman and a tight cluster of England staff were off the bench and dancing an impromptu ring-a-ring-a-roses and, away to the left, David Beckham, Paul Ince and Paul Gascoigne stood triumphantly in a line, arms around each other's shoulders, saluting the England fans.

When they turned and walked back towards the mêlée in the centre of the pitch, the eye followed them and roved around that teeming, amorphous mass of celebration. Then, suddenly, like a film camera that whizzes back to something in a blur, everyone's gaze flicked back to a flurry of action in the corner where the trio had been an instant before.

This time, it was Gareth Southgate who stood before the fans. He was alone with his joy, no one around him, but, for once, this man, who has for so long epitomised grace under pressure, who treated the trauma of his penalty shoot-out miss against Germany in the semi-finals of Euro 96 with candour and rare dignity, threw composure to the winds. He was acting like a man who had had a great weight lifted from his shoulders, pumping the air wildly with his right fist.

Everyone felt good for Southgate that night. He is one of the most respected players in the game, a man who lives by a code of common courtesy off the pitch and honest, skilful endeavour on it. "Sometimes in our world," he said, "that is seen as being an outstanding quality, but to me it should just be accepted."

Sometimes, it seems as if he is almost too good to be true. His transparent sincerity makes one fear for him, almost as though he 'is' too vulnerable, too sensible, too sensitive to survive in football's domain of flying elbows, thudding tackles and wheeler-dealing. To prosper as he has after what he has been through, though, there has to be a steel core. There are other sides to his nature.

"When I am with a group of lads," he said, "I am going to be one of them. I am the first, if we are going out, to go and have a drink with the boys and make an idiot of myself as much as the next man. But there is a time and a place for that and we have got a responsibility to conduct ourselves in the right manner at the right time. At the right time, though, you have got to unwind because, blimey, it would be a dull life if you didn't." If anyone deserved a little unwinding on that night in Rome, it was Southgate. Gradually, the happiness of repeated successes are erasing the pain of the penalty miss.

Southgate has not yet been afforded the clean shot at redemption that Stuart Pearce was given against Spain in Euro 96, when he wiped away the memory of his saved penalty against Germany in the semi-finals of the 1990 World Cup with an emphatic spot-kick. Pearce's histrionic reaction showed just how much his earlier failure had been festering inside him.

But, as he sat on a couch at Aston Villa's training ground to the east of Birmingham yesterday, Southgate wore the air of a man who is at last beginning to believe that he has completed his atonement. His sin, anyway, was merely that he had the courage to take that sixth penalty when others did not, but he has suffered for it nonetheless.

He still gets the odd poisoned letter from poisoned minds that still harbour misplaced grudges but, in the 16 months since Euro 96, Southgate has proved himself, then proved himself again and again. He was one of England's best players in the important victory over Poland in Katowice in May and turned in a flawless performance when it really mattered in Rome.

Last week, the Villa captain was the rock on which Athletic Bilbao foundered in the first leg of their Uefa Cup second-round tie and tomorrow he will stand at the heart of the Villa defence as it tries to stop Ian Wright and Dennis Bergkamp consolidating Arsenal's position at the head of the FA Carling Premiership. The challenges are coming thick and fast and Southgate has met them all. The future, once again, is more important than the past.

"For a spell, something like the penalty miss does knock you," Southgate said, "but you have to decide whether you have worked hard all your life to then let one incident that was not within the course of a normal game of football destroy you, or whether you are going to bounce back and say: 'I have not worked my socks off for nine years to let that ruin everything'.

"After a while, I sat back and decided I was not going to let that happen and that I was going to be single-minded enough to block out any of the negative feelings that people have shown towards me. I still get the occasional letter, but they do not leave their address on it. It is just a case of you pick it up, you see the start of it, then you just rip it up and throw it in the bin.

"I suppose time is a healer. Nothing will ever wipe it away completely because every time there is an article about you, it is: 'Gareth Southgate, whose penalty blah, blah, blah ...' There is nothing I can do about that. But since that has happened, I have been in the side that qualified for the World Cup. I played all but one of the qualifying games and I played when we won the tournament in France in the summer. So I could not have been involved in any more success.

"Possibly there was a sense of catharsis on that night in Italy. You do yearn for a moment that will symbolise success. You dream of scoring the winning goal. But I played as well as anybody in Poland, which was a fantastic result, and I played in Italy and we managed to keep a clean sheet. Sure, you dream of doing something at the same level as the penalty, but of a positive nature.

"It is great to have the adulation of the crowd, but having the respect of your team-mates and of the management and them being happy with the job you have done is enough praise.

"People do remember the penalty because it is the first thing they mention in conversation. I can't do anything about that. I must just try to achieve as much as I can in my career and hope that it will be a reasonably insignificant part of it in the end."

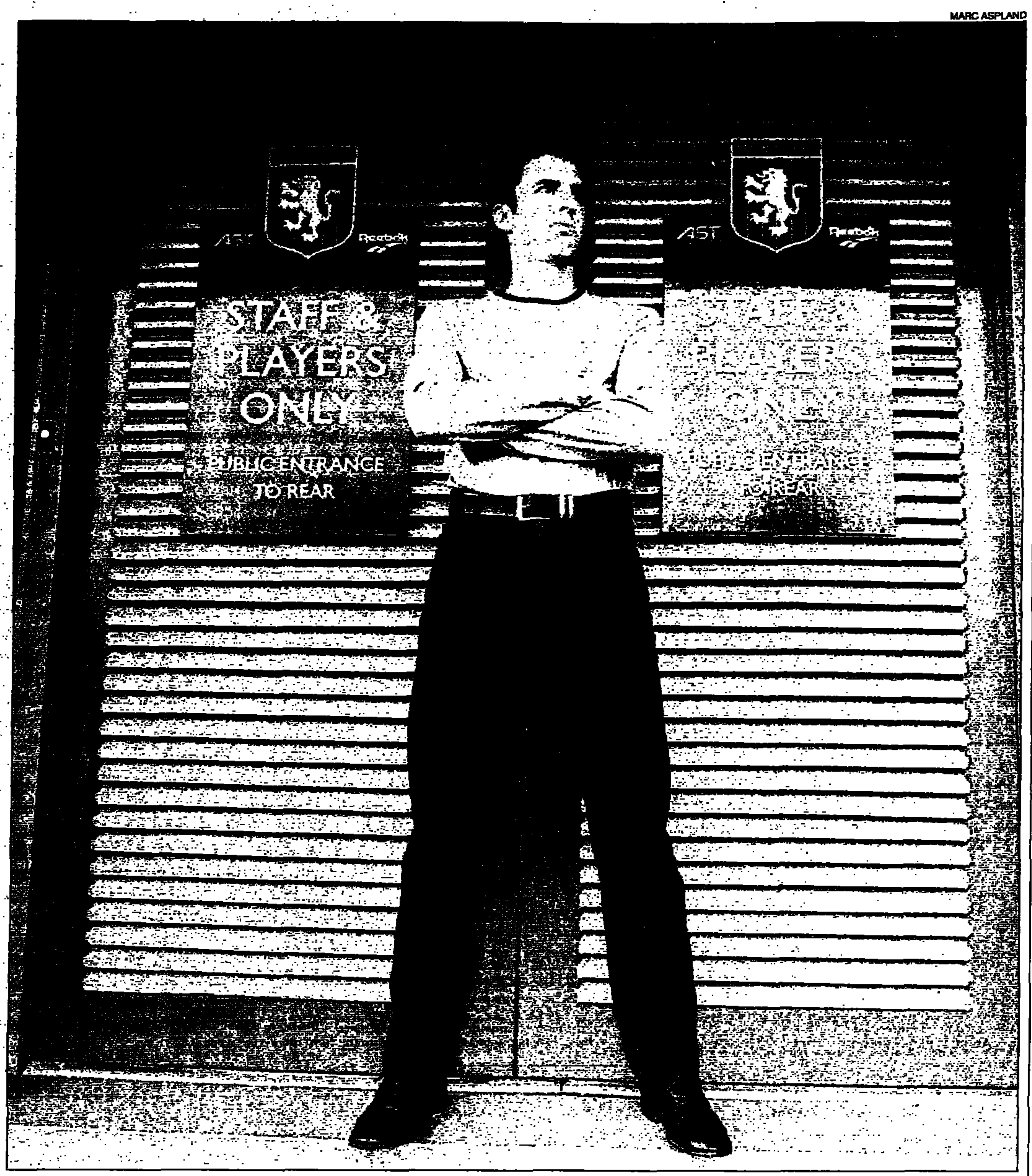
That, indeed, is the way things seem to be shaping up. With all his first-choice defenders fit, Hoddle chose Southgate above others for the match against Italy, and it now seems certain, barring injury, that he will be in the squad for the World Cup finals next summer.

At 6ft, he is one of the smaller central defenders. He remembers turning up for his first England training session and seeking reassurance from Terry Venables, then the national team coach, that his height would not be a problem. Twenty-one caps later, he knows. "I just have to try to use my brain and try to pinch things in front or behind bigger men." Southgate said. "I have to try to read things a bit quicker."

He has got so good at it, has become such an integral part of the England set-up, that Hoddle even encouraged him in a little subterfuge before the game in Rome. Southgate had passed a fitness test on a thigh injury the day before the game, but the England coach encouraged him to appear lacklustre in the final open training session because it might encourage the Italians to think that he was not fit and confuse their planning.

"It was actually fairly genuine," Southgate said, "because I had been suffering with the injury all week. I could not quite see the Italians thinking: 'Oh my God, Southgate's not playing, we're in,' but it did no harm. Still, the Royal Shakespeare Company have not been on yet." Wise people, the RSC: they can spot a man who does not need to hide behind a false identity.

MARC ASPLAND



Guard of honour: Southgate has grown in stature since Euro 96 and has become a stalwart at the heart of the defence for Villa and England

Sillett in trouble after flare-up

By Russell Kempson

PORTSMOUTH'S fall from grace — from fourth place in the Nationwide League first division in August, to 23rd before the game against Huddersfield Town this afternoon — has been accompanied by a plethora of disciplinary problems. They have had four players sent off this season and, yesterday, Neil Sillett, their physiotherapist, was charged with misconduct by the Football Association.

Sillett ran on to the pitch during the game against Bradford City at Fratton Park on Tuesday to treat Fitzroy Simpson, the Portsmouth midfield player, who had been fouled. However, he appeared to become involved in confrontations with Darren Moore, the Bradford player, and Chris Kamara, the Bradford manager.

Kamara has also been charged with misconduct. "They have 14 days to respond to the charge and request a personal hearing," an FA spokesman said.

Portsmouth, who have a £10,000 suspended fine hanging over them after previous misdemeanours, will at least be relieved that they will not face charges arising from the incident.

Huddersfield are not going too well, either — they are the only club below Portsmouth — and Peter Jackson, their new manager, has received a short, sharp lesson in how to deal, and how not to, in the transfer market. Jackson thought he had signed up Michael Evans, the Southampton striker, for £750,000 but was gazumped by Ray Harford, the West Bromwich Albion manager.

"Next time, I think I'll play my cards closer to my chest," Jackson said. "We made a big bid for Michael earlier in the week but since then, West Brom did the same and he decided to go there."

Harford needed Evans to replace Paul Peschisolido, who yesterday joined Fulham, the second division side, for a fee of £1.1 million. It takes the spending of Kevin Keegan, Fulham's chief operating officer, to £1.6 million since he and Ray Wilkins, the manager, took over at Craven Cottage last month.

"This is a sensible signing," Keegan said, "but don't expect us to spend silly money because we won't. This is the right player at exactly the right price."

Stockport County have also broken their transfer record, albeit more modestly, with the capture of Paul Cook, the Tranmere Rovers midfield player, for £250,000.

Another manager in the FA's bad books yesterday was Nigel Spackman, who takes his unbeaten Sheffield United side to play West Bromwich at The Hawthorns today. He has been charged with misconduct after allegedly making remarks to the referee after the 2-2 draw at home to Queens Park Rangers on Saturday.

Villa declare war on tipsy French fish

Off the line

by Russell Kempson

ASTON VILLA welcomed Bordeaux supporters to Villa Park with a message, in French, in the match programme for their Uefa Cup first-round, second-leg match. It was an admirable effort spoilt only by a slight hiccup in the translation of the warning not to bring anything alcoholic into the ground. The word "boissons" (drinks) had become "poissons" (fish), which caused much mirth among the Bordeaux faithful — the most fanatical of which, rather appropriately, are nicknamed the "Piranhas". Villa security chiefs later reported that six bream, four roach and eight pike, in varying states of stupor, were confiscated at the turnstiles.

Ageing Ranger

Simon Barker, the Queens Park Rangers midfield player, was delighted to receive a call to appear on a panel of experts on a television football show. As he is approaching the twilight stage of his career, Barker, 32, was grateful that he should be selected for such an honour. However, he was less enamoured when he discovered the topic for conversation — "Players Getting Old".

Faux pas No 1

Liverpool's French farce apparently developed long before the first whistle of their Uefa Cup second-round, first-leg match in Strasbourg on Tuesday, in which they tumbled to a 3-0 defeat. In a French magazine interview that was published on the day of the game, David James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, hardly endeared himself to the locals with his initial response to the question-and-answer article. Q: "What do you know about Strasbourg?" A: "It begins with the letter 'S'. I thought it was in Germany." The latter observation is akin to calling a Scotsman English ... no wonder the "Calamity James" nickname lives on.

In the mad, mad, mad, mad world of football, success is little guarantee of continued employment. Como lay fourth in the Italian third division, after an unbeaten run of two victories and four draws, but Mario Beretta, the coach, still got the bullet. Enrico Preziosi, the club president, pulled the trigger and then explained: "It was a tough but reasoned decision." Absolutely.

Grim reminder

Followers of Athletic Bilbao, Aston Villa's opponents in the Uefa Cup second round, provided a heart-warming conclusion to the first leg of the tie, which finished 0-0, in the San Mamés Stadium on Tuesday night. Despite frustration at their side's inability to score, they applauded the small band of Villa fans and demonstrated that inter-club rivalry can be conducted in a pleasant and civilised manner. However, lurking beneath the surface was a reminder of the troubles that still afflict Bilbao. ETA, the Basque separatist movement, is believed to have strong links with the IRA in Ireland and an Irish tricolour hung from a guard rail in the San Mames. It bore a familiar message: "We've not gone away, you know."

STRANGE BUT TRUE: Manchester City have five pairs of players with the same surname — the Whitleys, Morleys, Fentons, Browns and McNabs.

■ SWINDON TOWN may have bowed out of the FA Youth Cup on Wednesday but they were not too downhearted. Their 3-2 defeat against "Harchester United" was staged only for the benefit of television — namely *Dream Team*, the 64-episode satellite soap — and defeat had been written into the script.

Filming took place at the Bushey Studios near Watford. "It was a really enjoyable day out," Tommy Wheeldon, the Swindon youth team manager, said. Wheeldon's son, Thomas Jr, the former Swindon youth captain but now bit-part actor and Harchester United superstar, set up the deal. "I even accepted a bung from a *Dream Team* director, which will pay for our Christmas dinner," Wheeldon Sr said. "But don't tell the FA."

Part-time option may suit Irish

NORTHERN Ireland could appoint a part-time manager to succeed Bryan Hamilton, who was dismissed on Thursday (Russell Kempson writes). Speculation that it might be Martin O'Neill, the Leicester City manager, coincided with a drop of 16p in the Leicester shares, which were floated on the Stock Market yesterday, from the opening trading price of £1.10.

Jim Boyce, the president of the Irish Football Association, said: "If a part-time appointment is the right way forward, then we will do that. I would prefer a full-time manager but we won't appoint someone full-time if a part-time candidate is better."

O'Neill reacted with caution and characteristic humour. "I'm stunned that I can have an effect on the Stock Market but I would rather not make any comment on the situation at this stage," he said. "I don't know the ins and outs of what would be involved."

Other contenders for the job include Jimmy Nicholl, the Raith Rovers manager, Danny Wilson, of Barnsley, Sammy McIlroy, of Macclesfield Town, and Jimmy Quinn, the Peterborough United striker and former Reading manager.

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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

LIVERPOOL
v
DERBY COUNTY
Tpday, 3.0 (sold out)

David Maddock

Who would be a manager? The differing fortunes of the two on display in this match illustrate the precarious nature of the football business. In the red corner, Roy Evans, underwhelming and under pressure. *Defeat here is a real* possibility after a rotten week, and would no doubt solicit yet *more headlines wondering* about the location of his P45.

In the white corner is *Jim Smith, thrust into* the limelight after what seems a lifetime of lurking in the management twilight. Who would have thought, as his bus pass approaches, that he would receive the recognition he has always deserved.

Smith knows all about failure; his time at Newcastle United, for instance, prepared him for everything the management game could throw at him, but the vagaries of this business still provide amusement. "Roy took his side to within a whisker of the title and the semi-final of a European competition, and still people question him," he laughed. "God knows what they'll make of my record."

The problem for Evans is that the time has arrived for tangible *success in the form of trophies. It* is perception, as much as anything, that has worked against him. As well as they played before the past week, no one — not least the Liverpool supporters — can see his present team winning the league.

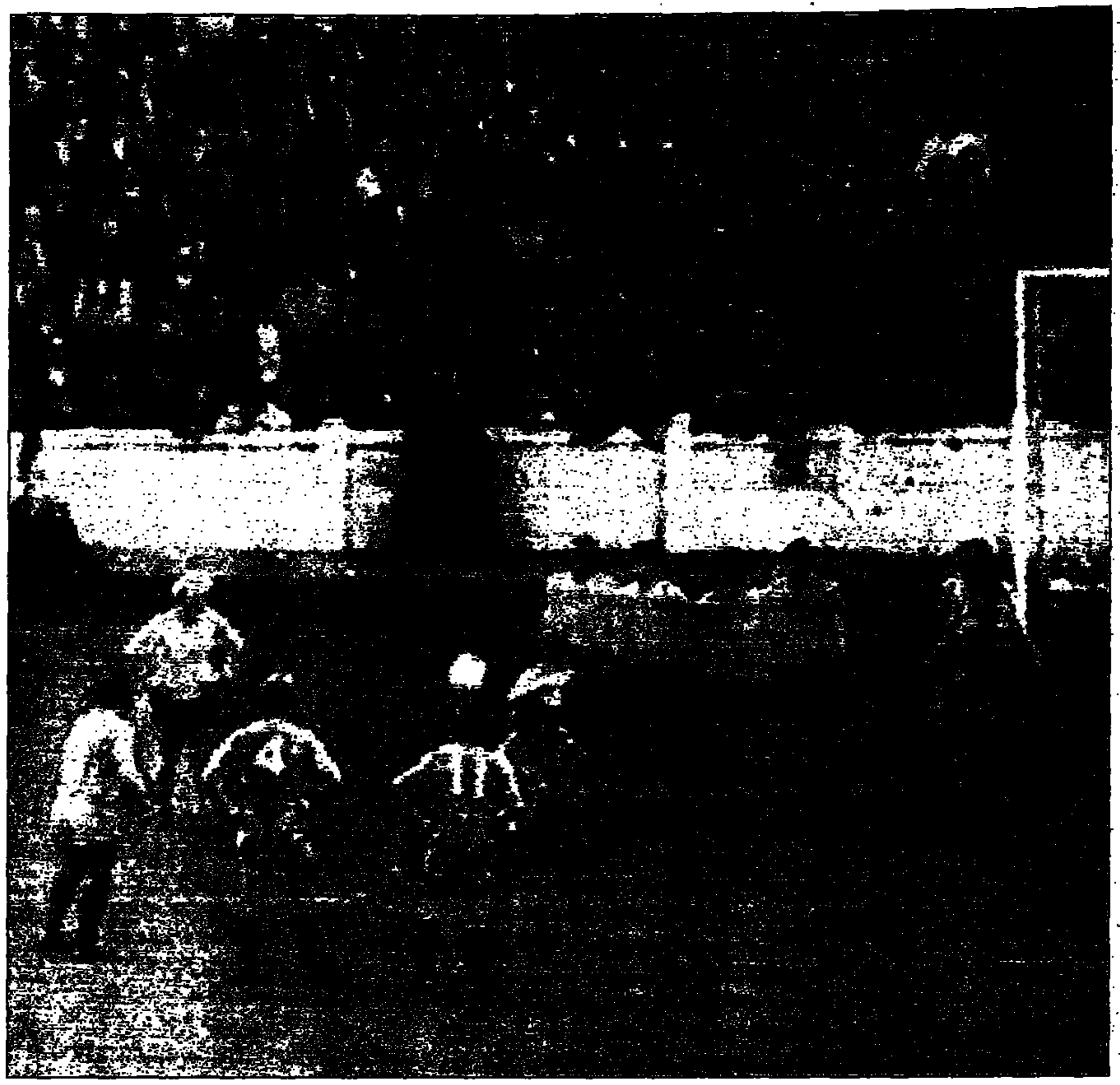
It may be that some of his players cannot see it either and that would lead to an exodus potentially far more damaging than recent results. The solution? We may receive some clues this afternoon. Evans knows that he must strengthen his defence, but until the cavalry arrives, he must tinker once more with a back line that could not stop a watch. Ruddock is likely to be stood down, along with McAteer and possibly even that figure straight out of *It's a Knockout*, Stig Inge Bjornebye.

Expect more changes, with Riedle and possibly Thomas set to return, and Redknapp rested. *Redknapp performed well with*in the confines of a dismal performance in France, and he will be looking closely at developments in the next few weeks, given impending contract talks.

As for Derby, well they will not want to tinker with a winning formula. Victory in midweek would have launched them into the nose-bleed territory of fourth place, and Smith sees no reason why it should not continue. "Derby are becoming a side to be reckoned with", was his calm, and increasingly accurate assertion.

LIVERPOOL (probable, 4-4-2): D James — R Jones, M Wright, B T Kvarme, S Harkness — S McManaman, M Thomas, P Ince, O Leonhardsen — K Riedle, R Fowler.
DERBY COUNTY (probable: 3-4-3): M Poom — G Rowett, C Dailly, J Laursen — L Carsley, A Asanovic, P Trollope, C Powell — D Sturridge, F Baiano, P Wanchope
Referee: G Willard

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, BBC1 10.50pm, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Sorry Roy, Derby *to sneak a draw.*



Heel we go: Willie Carr's flick is in the air and Ernie Hunt is poised to volley one of the most memorable goals of the 70s

FIRST 11 ELEVEN

ALIVE AND FLICKING

We couldn't let Coventry v Everton pass today without paying homage to the match 27 years ago when Willie Carr and Ernie Hunt invented the sexiest free kick of all time. Here are 11 more strange, memorable and just plain bizarre goals.

1. Blackburn keeper, Tim Flowers, regretted marking the centre of his goal with a divot when Stan Collymore's harmless shot pitched Shane *Warne-like and looped* into the net.

2. Who got the final touch for Arsenal's equaliser against Liverpool in the 1971 FA Cup Final? Eddie Kelly and George Graham *debate it to this day.*

3. Zico thought he had headed a last-minute winner for Brazil against Sweden in the 1978 World Cup. Clive Thomas, however, *had other ideas.*

4. Gianluca Vialli's backside claimed the credit for Chelsea's opening goal in Bratislava recently.

5. Pat Jennings surprised Alex Stepney, silenced Old Trafford and bemused Kenneth Wolstenholme with his drop-kick goal in the 1967 Charity Shield.

6. Diego Maradona took a hand in the 1986 World Cup quarter-final between England and Argentina.

7. Leeds keeper, Gary Sprake, threw the ball into his own net at Anfield in 1967. The Kop kept a dignified silence.

8. Andy Dibble, then with Manchester City, was humiliated when Gary Crosby, of Nottingham Forest, headed the ball out of his hand and scored.

9. Nat Lofthouse used slightly robust methods to put the ball, and Manchester United keeper Harry Gregg, into the net in the 1958 Cup Final.

10. The goal that wasn't but was. Alan Hudson's shot for Chelsea against Ipswich in 1970 hit the stanchion *outside* the net.

11. The goal that was but wasn't. Clive Allen's shot for Palace at Coventry in 1980 obviously *did* go in, *but the ref saw it differently.*

Compiled by Richard Whitehead

Thanks to Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H OJG. Tel: 0171-240 9604.

NEWCASTLE UNITED
v
BLACKBURN ROVERS
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Ivo Tennant

There is no respite for Kenny Dalglish. Three days after losing to PSV Eindhoven in the Champions' League, Newcastle United face his resurgent former club, Blackburn Rovers, who are in second place in the FA Carling Premiership. Mental as much as physical resilience will need to be to the fore.

Only this week, Birmingham City took the view that Steve Bruce, at 36, should no longer be asked to play two matches a week. Ian Rush, *who is the same age, led the* Newcastle attack on his own last Wednesday, as he did *against Leeds United the pre*vious weekend, and he is likely to have to do so again *today.*

Tomasson will play just behind him. In addition to their long-standing injury problems, Newcastle will have to make do without Given, the former Blackburn goalkeeper, who is due to take part in Ireland's World Cup qualifying match against Belgium next week.

The likelihood is that Dalglish will choose Hislop *ahead of Srnicek, as he did* against Hull City recently. If he does, Srnicek will in all *probability look to leave the* club.

As for Blackburn, it is exactly a year since, under the management of Ray Harford, they were bottom of the Premiership and without a victory. Several of their players, of course, know Dalglish's methods and his psychology all too well. In Roy Hodgson, Blackburn have a manager whom Stuart Ripley calls "a footballing scientist".

Hodgson's tactic of reverting to two wingers is succeeding. Duff, a protégé of Dalglish's, is performing well on the left, as is Ripley on the right. He showed considerable flair in the match against Southampton last Saturday and his tussle with John Beresford this afternoon could decide the outcome.

Wilcox is injured, but Sherwood and Sutton, who is looking to attract Glenn Hoddle's attention, are also in excellent form. A Blackburn victory is the most feasible result.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (probable, 4-4-2): S Hislop — S Watson, D Peacock, S Howey, J Beresford — K Gillespie, R Lee, D Batty, W Barton — J D Tomasson, I Rush
BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable, 4-4-2): T Flowers — C Coleman, S Henchoz, C Hendry, G Croft — S Ripley, T Sherwood, L Bohinen, D Duff — K Gallacher, C Sutton
Referee: J Winter

■ *TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day*, goal highlights
■ PREDICTION: Blackburn to win 1-0 or 2-1

MANCHESTER UNITED
v
BARNSLEY
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Mark Hodkinson

Spiritual assistance was called upon this week and it helped Barnsley to record a win after five consecutive league defeats. Reverend Peter Amos, the club chaplin, urged 140 churches in the Barnsley diocese to pray for Danny Wilson's team and poor Coventry suffered a 2-0 defeat on Monday.

Neil Redfearn, the Barnsley captain, has no qualms about taking on football aristocracy. "We have the players and the character to get a result," he said.

United have had their usual high-profile week, beating Feyenoord in the Champions' League and finding themselves linked, at last count, with two dozen strikers. David Beckham has upset Arie Haan, Feyenoord's manager. "He deliberately hurt my players," Haan whinged. Beckham will find Barnsley more willing to put shinpads to the test.

Three United defenders are struggling with injuries. David May will be out for a month with a torn thigh muscle, while Johnsen and Berg face late fitness tests. Berg's injury was announced initially as a buttock strain, but has now mysteriously moved to his hamstring, no doubt to spare his blushes. Barnsley are injury free, though Hendrie is still not quite match fit.

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable, 4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, R Johnsen, G Pallister, D Irwin — D Beckham, N Butt, R Giggs, P Scholes — E Sheringham, A Cole.
BARNSLEY (probable, 4-4-2): D Watson — N. Eaden, A de Zeeuw, A Krizan, N Thompson — M Bullock, D Sheridan, N Redfearn, D Barnard — A Ward, A Liddell.
Referee: M Riley.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: A win for United, but not by the expected margin.

COVENTRY CITY
v
EVERTON
Today, 3 0

Peter Robinson

Had you looked at this fixture two weeks ago, you would have thought, "nothing game", but then *these two teams* met in the Coca-Cola Cup, another nothing game in a noth*ing tournament, and all hell* broke loose. Coventry won 4-1 and Howard Kendall, the *Everton manager, stormed on to* the pitch after the final whistle to remonstrate with his players. "There was a lack of *passion*, a lack of feeling and the lack of a will to fight for the club," he said. "I'm sorry, but I can't have that."

Everton got the message. Next, and against the odds, Liverpool were beaten 2-0. Now comes the rematch, the chance to make amends. Everton will be wound up to the limit for this one.

With Bilic and Phelan on World Cup duty, they will probably be unchanged from their Merseyside derby win. Coventry, with something to prove themselves after losing to Barnsley on Monday *night*, will be without Breen, the central defender, another involved in World Cup play-offs. *Williams, no longer* suspended, should replace him. Dublin is still serving his time *and* Huckerby *may return from* injury. Coventry are one of only four teams still unbeaten at home *in* the FA Carling Premiership this season. They face a battle to maintain that record today.

COVENTRY CITY (possible: 4-4-2): S Ogrzovic — R Nilsson, G Shaw, A Williams, D Burrows — J Salako, G McAllister, W Boland, M Hall — K Lightbourne, D Huckerby
EVERTON (probable, 4-4-2): N Southall — E Barrett, C Short, D Watson, A Hinchcliffe — G Stuart, A Williamson, G Speed, J Oster — D Cadamarteri, D Ferguson.
Referee: S Lodge

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Away win.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
v
CRYSTAL PALACE
Today, 3.0

Keith Pike

The resistible force meets the *moveable object* as Crystal Palace, who have man*aged just nine* goals in 11 league games, take on a Sheffield Wednesday team that has conceded 26 in the same number of matches. David Pleat puts a high premium on entertainment, but even the Wednesday manager is sounding a little careworn as his side hovers near the foot of the table.

"We must make sure that if we do score two or three goals [which they have in their past four outings], it is enough to win the game [which it has been only once]," he said. If Kevin Pressman stopped doing his Ed de Goey impression in goal it would help.

Pleat is likely to rest his Norwegian, Rudi, and put his fire on Carbone and Di Canio to continue in harness up front. It is the absence of an Italian, though, that Palace must counter — and then some. With Lombardo away on World Cup duty, Steve Coppell must replace not only his midfield *engine-room, but also his most* creative player *and* a useful goalscorer. Pleat is most unlikely to let him start with 13 men, so Coppell will probably give Bonetti — yes, another Italian — his debut. Dyer may replace the hamstrung Warhurst. Smith, signed from Wolves this week, may also start.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (possible: 4-4-2): K Pressman — I Nolan, J Newsome, D Walker, D Stefanovic — G Whittingham, J Magilton, W Collins, M Pembridge — B Carbone, P Di Canio
CRYSTAL PALACE (probable, 3-5-2): K Miller — A Linighan, M Edworthy, H Hreidarsson — J Smith, I Bonetti, A Roberts, S Rodger, D Gordon — B Dyer, N Shipperley
Referee: D Gallagher.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Lots of goals, the majority to Wednesday.

SOUTHAMPTON
v
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Nick Szczepanik

In the week of baseball's World Series, it seems appropriate to note the success of some red sox, if you will pardon the spelling, on the south coast. Southampton's change of leg wear, from effete white to robust red, three weeks ago brought them their biggest victory of the season, 3-0 against West Ham United, in the FA Carling Premiership. Then again, perhaps it had something to do with David Jones, the manager, being able to select from an injury-free squad for the first time.

Today, with Matthew Le Tissier expected to return after missing the narrow defeat away to Blackburn Rovers last Saturday, and David Hirst, who always seemed to do well at The Dell as a visitor, making his home debut, Southampton, although bottom of the table, should improve on their 1-0 defeat in this fixture last year.

Tottenham, of course, will also have a spring in their step after the win over Sheffield Wednesday last Sunday. José Dominguez, injured in that match, is likely to be fit today and Darren Anderton, who made a brief appearance as substitute and played 45 minutes of a midweek reserve game, will probably be involved at some stage.

SOUTHAMPTON (probable, 4-3-1-2): P Jones — J Dodd, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, S Charlton — M Oakley, K Richardson, C Palmer — M Le Tissier — K Davies, D Hirst
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable, 4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, S Campbell, R Vega, J Edinburgh — R Fox, D Howells, A Sinton, D Ginola — J Dominguez, C Armstrong.
Referee: N Barry

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Both teams to continue their improvement, with a point each

ARSENAL
v
ASTON VILLA
Tomorrow, 4.0 (sold out)

Oliver Holt

Aston Villa have effected a modest rally after a start to the season that brought them four consecutive defeats, but their loss *of two key players through the* World Cup qualifying playoffs and their failure, so far, to *clinch the signing of Paul* Gascoigne, will leave them at a distinct disadvantage in the *match against Arsenal at* Highbury tomorrow.

Fresh from a fine Uefa Cup *performance in Spain against* Athletic Bilbao, Villa are still languishing in thirteenth place in the FA Carling Premiership and will be deprived of Savo Milosevic and Steve Staunton, both on duty for their respective countries.

Stan Collymore, their troubled striker, is suspended after his sending-off at Bolton Wanderers three weeks ago, and Ian Taylor is doubtful through injury.

That should be more than enough to sink Villa against an Arsenal team that will be close to full strength and keen to consolidate their position at the top of the *table* before Dennis Bergkamp submits to a three-match ban.

Marc Overmars, their left winger, who missed the goalless draw away to Crystal Palace last week, is out with a foot injury and is the only serious worry.

It should, nevertheless, be a fascinating battle between a Villa back three, likely to comprise Gareth Southgate, Ugo Ehiogu and Ricardo Scimeca, and Bergkamp and Ian Wright.

"There is no question that this season has been very disappointing in terms of the league position," Southgate said yesterday. "I have had a moan about it in the last couple of weeks, but we cannot afford to be too negative. We have got to start looking forward and taking the positives from our European performances."

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, S Bould, A Adams, N Winterburn — R Parlour, E Petit, P Vieira, M Overmars — D Bergkamp, I Wright.
ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Bosnich — R Scimeca, G Southgate, U Ehiogu — F Nelson, S Curcic, M Draper, S Grayson, A Wright — D Yorke, J Joachim.
Referee: P Durkin

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 3pm.
■ PREDICTION: Arsenal to win at a canter.

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports.

WIMBLEDON
v
LEEDS UNITED
Today, 3.0

Brian Glanville

This promises to be a far more entertaining game than the one a few years back, which induced Wimbledon's outraged manager, Joe Kinnear, to heap abuse on the innocent head of Gary Lineker.

Lineker had remarked, on television, that the first half was so dull you would have been better off watching it on Ceefax. Kinnear was misinformed that Lineker had said you were better off watching Wimbledon on Ceefax. Hence the explosion.

As one who sat and suffered through that game, I could see Lineker's point, but Wimbledon are a much more attractive team these days, while Leeds perhaps *surprised even themselves* by running riot and scoring no fewer than four goals at Elland *Road against Newcastle United* last Saturday.

Several players will be miss*ing from this match because they* are in Ireland's squad for the World Cup eliminator against Belgium. Thus, *Leeds must* replace Gary Kelly and are expected to do so with Lee Bowyer, the talented midfield player, who joined from Charlton Athletic. He has yet fully to display his latent talents but, at his best, he is a creative footballer who can also score goals.

Missing, too, from the Leeds squad will be Ian Harte, though he did not get onto the field last week against Newcastle. Lucas Radebe, the defender, is doubtful with an ankle injury.

Wimbledon, for their part, *have had* to concede their right back, Kenny Cunningham, to the Ireland squad and are expected to replace him with Brian McAllister, better known as a centre back.

In midweek, *they drew away* to the presently vibrant Derby County and in Kinnear's heated *opinion, should have been given* the penalty that might have won them the game.

Their impressive 19-year-old forward, Carl Cort, who has looked so dangerous, both with *head and foot, and shown such* pleasing technique since he came into the team against Newcastle, *is not even sure of his place,* despite his precocious form. Though he has just been given a *new five-year contract, he could* be replaced by the powerful Marcus Gayle.

WIMBLEDON (probable, 4-4-2): N Sullivan — B McAllister, C Perry, D Blackwell, B Thatcher — M Hughes, V Jones, R Earle, C Hughes — E Ekoku, C Cort.
LEEDS UNITED (probable; 4-4-2): N Martyn — G Halle, D Wetherall, R Molenaar, D Robertson — L Bowyer, A I Haaland, D Hopkin, B Ribeiro — R Wallace, H Kewell.
Referee: G Barber.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: A likely draw.

BOLTON WANDERERS
v
CHELSEA
Tomorrow, 3.0 (sold out)

David Maddock

Noel Blake has served his sus*pension* — and aren't Bolton glad. They have *suffered in the* Wales international's absence and are, ominously, stuck in the bottom three of the Premiership.

It is a position that their manager, Colin Todd, finds uncomfortable. "When we were in the Premiership last time, we got off to a terrible start, and it was something that we never recovered from," he said.

"We knew that we had to get off to a much better start this season. So far, we have played well, but not really got the results we have deserved. It has been a slow start, but it is much better than two seasons ago."

At least Bolton have finally recorded their first win at the new Reebok Stadium, albeit in the Coca-Cola Cup against Wimbledon.

They are catching Chelsea at the right time, as Ruud Gullit recognises. "It is always difficult playing in the Premiership after a European match on the Thursday," he said. "But maybe this game was a little more difficult than usual."

Chelsea are without their three Italians. Di Matteo and Zola are away on international duty but the manager may have rested both anyway, such is his determination to revolve his squad. Vialli is suspended. This means Mark Hughes will probably play up front with Tore Andre Flo. Wise and Lambourde are suspended and Chelsea are also without the injured Le Saux, Poyet and Duberry.

Gullit, who may start himself, is still smarting from the debacle in Tromso, and is considering making an official complaint to Uefa about the conditions under which the match was played. It was a surprise that no one was seriously hurt, and Chelsea are angry about Uefa's apparent determination to play the game no matter what the cost.

Bolton have Andy Todd suspended, but Mark Fish seems to have finally shaken off a knee injury and should be fit to take his place in the starting line-up. Gullit will wait until *this morn*ing to judge any reaction from the game on Thursday before naming his side.

BOLTON WANDERERS (probable: 4-4-2). K Branagan — G Bergsson, M Fish, G Taggart, M Whitlow — J Pollock, P Frandsen, A Thompson, S Sellars — D Holdsworth, N Blake
CHELSEA (probable; 4-4-2): E de Goey — F Sinclair, S Clarke, D Granville — C Babayaro, E Newton, R Gullit, A Myers, D Petrescu — T A Flo, M Hughes.
Referee: P Jones.

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Highlights *in Football Special*, Sky Sports 3, 10pm.
■ PREDICTION: No snow this time, but *another Chelsea defeat.*

[illegible]

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Players must accept blame for shaming the name of Liverpool

McMANAMAN'S WORLD

Our manager has stated twice in the past week that we have produced performances not acceptable to Liverpool Football Club. You will find no one in the dressing-room rushing to disagree with him. If anyone should criticise us, it is our manager, Roy Evans, and nobody has a problem with that. We have played badly during the past week, and we know that we deserve taking to task. There are no excuses.

The manager is there to be critical when necessary — it's his job. It's a strange thing, but when the manager comes into the dressing-room and shouts and bawls, we all tend to agree with him. You see, when it gets to that stage, we know we deserve it. It doesn't matter what level you are at, if a team plays badly, the manager lets rip afterwards. Even in the Sunday leagues, the boss will have a bit of shout — even if he's just someone's dad.

The point is that it's a natural thing, but also hardly necessary. The players know that they haven't performed to the level demanded of Liverpool. We have been severely criticised, and quite rightly too, but it's not as if the players don't care. I know our supporters can get that impression but, truly, it's not the case.

We were devastated by the events of last week. We are desperate to win every game, and no professional ever goes out thinking that they won't bother too much in a certain match. It happened that we played very badly, but it was not planned.

What can we do? Well, the only thing is to knuckle down and attempt to learn from our mistakes. What was frustrating and annoying is that, before the Everton game, we had played very well, against both Chelsea and West Bromwich Albion. We know that we can play at the level required, so there is not a crisis in the sense that some would have you believe.

But in saying that, we have brought on all this talk of problems at Anfield, and we have to resolve it. We know we can play well, but we have to do it more consistently. Our response since Tuesday has been to unite to try to put things back on course. It is what our supporters demand. The only way that we can do that is to work on our failings on the training ground and take as positive an attitude as possible onto the pitch. There must be reflection, but not moping.

What has been upsetting is the pressure that has suddenly been put on the manager. There has been plenty of talk about his job, and that is unfair. It is wrong that our performances during an extremely bad week should have turned the focus so intensely on him. There have been questions asked about his management, but the questions should have been directed at the players.

The manager has made his opinion known, but he also knows he's part of it, too. One thing is certain — the players are right behind the manager. The last thing we want is talk to surface of the boss being under pressure. We have a responsibility to him to make sure that there is no more talk of his job being on the line, and the only way we can do that is to start producing good form consistently.

■ Flying the flag

Despite our depressing result in Strasbourg, it has not been all doom and gloom for English clubs in Europe. Aston Villa got a tremendous draw in Bilbao, and Manchester United did everything asked of them by beating Feyenoord.

I believe this is a big year for English clubs in Europe. We came close last season, with both ourselves and United making the semi-finals of their respective competitions, and we need to take that a step farther.

The national team is doing well, and there seems to be a renewed respect for our teams across the Continent. That momentum will be maintained only if we can show that we can rival the biggest clubs across Europe.

Don't bet against it happening, either. United have won three matches out of three in the Champions' League so far and you couldn't ask for more than that. They are looking comfortable and, with a home game against FC Kosice to come, they look to be in a decent position to qualify for the quarter-finals. Newcastle, too, are still in with a good chance of qualifying for the next stage.

I'd better not shout it loudly, but Liverpool still have a chance, too. True, we are three goals behind and we played badly, but we also created plenty of decent chances, which is something that we didn't do against Paris Saint-Germain last season.

Remember that in the second leg against Paris we gave them a real run for their money, and could easily have snatched the tie. I don't believe that Strasbourg, as well as they played in the second half, are as good a team as Paris.

We showed that they can be vulnerable at the back. With a little luck, we could have scored a goal or two, and that gives us a glimmer of hope for the second leg. Who knows, with our support behind us on one of those amazing European nights at Anfield, we might just surprise a few people yet.

■ Welcome back, Jamie

One good thing that came out of the game on Tuesday, perhaps the only good thing, was the return of Jamie Redknapp. He has suffered terribly in the past year with an ankle problem, and it is good to see him emerge from his problems.

Even when Jamie was playing last year, his ankle wasn't right. People didn't know, but he was playing in terrible pain at times, and he really suffered. In the end, he got a break on exactly the same spot where he had trouble, and it was obviously a weakness, or maybe a hairline fracture.

Now though, that appears to be all behind him. The break has healed well, and he has returned ahead of schedule. It can easily be lost in a poor team performance, but Jamie played really well on the night in France and that speaks volumes for his attitude.

STEVE MCMANAMAN

☐ *Next week: Frank Leboeuf*

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)	PLAYED	POINTS	GOAL DIFF	HOME					AWAY					LAST 10 MATCHES W-D-L	CURRENT STREAK
				W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1. ARSENAL (1)	11	23	+17	4	1	0	15	1	2	4	0	12	9	6-4-0	D1
2. BLACKBURN ROVERS (3)	11	22	+11	3	2	1	13	7	3	2	0	8	2	5-4-1	W2
3. MANCHESTER UTD (2)	11	22	+10	4	1	0	10	3	2	3	1	6	3	5-4-1	D1
4. CHELSEA (5)	10	19	+11	3	0	1	8	5	3	1	2	17	9	6-1-3	W1
5. LEICESTER CITY (4)	11	18	+5	2	3	1	9	6	3	0	2	5	3	4-3-3	L2
6. DERBY COUNTY (6)	10	17	+8	3	2	0	11	4	2	0	3	8	7	5-2-3	D2
7. LEEDS UTD (9)	11	17	+3	2	1	3	6	7	3	1	1	9	5	5-1-4	W1
8. WEST HAM UTD (11)	11	16	-2	4	0	1	10	4	1	1	4	5	13	4-1-5	W1
9. LIVERPOOL (7)	10	15	+4	3	0	1	10	5	1	3	2	6	7	4-3-3	L1
10. NEWCASTLE UTD (8)	8	15	-1	4	0	1	6	4	1	0	2	2	5	5-0-3	L1
11. WIMBLEDON (15)	11	13	0	1	2	3	6	7	2	2	1	7	6	3-3-4	D1
12. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (14)	11	13	-4	3	2	1	7	6	0	2	3	2	7	3-4-3	W1
13. ASTON VILLA (10)	11	13	-5	2	1	2	6	9	2	0	4	6	8	4-1-5	L1
14. CRYSTAL PALACE (13)	11	12	-4	0	2	3	3	8	3	1	2	6	5	2-3-5	D1
15. COVENTRY CITY (12)	11	12	-5	2	4	0	8	6	0	2	3	0	7	1-6-3	L1
16. EVERTON (18)	10	11	-3	3	1	2	11	9	0	1	3	2	7	3-2-5	W1
17. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (16)	11	9	-10	2	1	2	7	9	0	2	4	9	17	2-3-5	L1
18. BARNSLEY (20)	11	9	-19	2	0	4	5	14	1	0	4	4	14	3-0-7	W1
19. BOLTON WANDERERS (17)	10	8	-7	0	3	1	1	2	1	2	3	7	13	1-5-4	L2
20. SOUTHAMPTON (19)	11	7	-10	2	1	3	6	7	0	0	5	2	11	2-1-7	L1

[illegible]

	Goals scored	Avge	Pens	Dead ball	Open play	Head
1. Chelsea	25	2.50	2	4	19	5
2. Arsenal	27	2.45	1	6	20	1
3. Blackburn	21	1.91	1	3	17	3
4. Derby	19	1.90	2	3	14	4
5. Liverpool	16	1.60	2	2	12	1
6. Manchester Utd	16	1.45	0	3	13	3
=. Sheffield Wed	16	1.45	3	1	12	4
8. Leeds	15	1.36	0	6	9	5
=. West Ham	15	1.36	0	3	12	2
10. Everton	13	1.30	1	5	7	5
11. Leicester	14	1.27	0	7	7	5
12. Wimbledon	13	1.20	0	3	10	5
13. Aston Villa	12	1.09	0	4	8	1
14. Newcastle	8	1.00	0	1	7	1
15. Crystal Palace	9	0.90	1	0	8	2
16. Barnsley	9	0.82	1	2	6	4
=. Tottenham	9	0.82	0	3	6	3
18. Bolton	8	0.80	1	1	6	1
=. Coventry	8	0.80	0	3	5	2
20. Southampton	8	0.73	0	2	6	1

DEFENCE

	Goals conceded	Average	Pens	Dead ball	Open play	Head
1. Manchester Utd	6	0.54	0	2	4	1
2. Blackburn	9	0.82	0	1	8	1
=. Leicester	9	0.82	1	1	7	0
4. Arsenal	10	0.91	0	2	8	4
5. Leeds	12	1.09	1	2	9	3
6. Derby	11	1.10	1	4	6	4
7. Newcastle	9	1.12	0	4	5	4
8. Coventry	13	1.18	1	2	10	2
=. Crystal Palace	13	1.18	1	3	9	1
=. Tottenham	13	1.18	1	4	8	1
11. Liverpool	12	1.20	1	2	9	2
12. Wimbledon	13	1.20	1	2	10	3
13. Chelsea	14	1.40	0	2	12	2
14. Bolton	15	1.50	0	2	13	4
15. Aston Villa	17	1.54	1	2	14	4
=. West Ham	17	1.54	1	3	13	4
17. Everton	16	1.60	2	3	11	4
18. Southampton	18	1.64	1	3	14	5
19. Sheffield Wed	26	2.36	0	5	21	5
20. Barnsley	28	2.54	2	7	19	6

SCORING TRENDS

Goals per half	1st	2nd
Arsenal	17	10
Aston Villa	5	7
Barnsley	5	4
Blackburn	17	4
Bolton	5	3
Chelsea	13	12
Coventry	5	3
Crystal Palace	5	4
Derby	10	9
Everton	4	9
Leeds Utd	12	3
Leicester	4	10
Liverpool	4	12
Manchester Utd	6	10
Newcastle	4	4
Sheffield Wed	6	10
Southampton	2	6
Tottenham	5	4
West Ham	4	11
Wimbledon	3	10

CAUTIONS

Cards issued	Yellow	Red
1. Leeds Utd	25	1
2. C Palace	26	0
3. Bolton	22	3
4. Chelsea	21	3
5. Coventry	23	1
6. Arsenal	23	0
7. Everton	20	2
=. Sheffield Wed	20	2
9. West Ham	22	0
10. Tottenham	19	1
11. Manchester Utd*	20	0
12. Derby	19	0
=. Southampton	19	0
14. Barnsley	17	0
=. Wimbledon	17	0
16. Blackburn	14	2
17. Liverpool	16	0
18. Leicester	15	0
19. Newcastle	11	1
20. Aston Villa	8	1

* red card downgraded to yellow

GOALSCORERS

10: Bergkamp (Arsenal).
9: Sutton (Blackburn); Wright (Arsenal).
8: Baiano (Derby).
7: Carbone (Sheff Wed); Hartson (West Ham).
6: Gallacher (Blackburn).
5: Wallace (Leeds).
4: Berkovic (West Ham); Cadamarteri (Everton); Davies (Southampton); Di Canio (Sheff Wed); Dublin (Coventry); Overmars (Arsenal); Poyet, Vialli (Chelsea); Redfearn (Barnsley).
3: Berger, Fowler, Riedle (Liverpool); Blake (Bolton); Collins (Sheff Wed); Cort, Ekoku (Wimbledon); Elliott, Walsh (Leicester); Ferdinand (Tottenham); M Hughes, Leboeuf, Petrescu (Chelsea); Lombardo (C Palace); Sheringham (Man Utd); Speed (Everton); Taylor, Yorke (Aston Villa); Wanchope (Derby).

REFEREES

	P	Cards issued Yellow	Red
1. S Dunn	4	24	1
2. G Willard	6	30	2
3. P Durkin	6	30	1
4. G Ashby	5	23	1
5. P Alcock	5	22	0
6. D Elleray	6	23	1
7. M Bodenham	6	24	0
8. M Reed	3	11	1
9. U Rennie	6	23	0
10. G Barber	5	18	1
=. M Riley	5	18	1
12. G Poll	8	26	3
13. P Jones	6	17	2
14. J Winter	6	16	1
15. D Gallagher	6	15	1
16. A Wilkie	7	17	1
17. K Burge	6	15	0
18. N Barry	5	12	0
19. S Lodge	6	10	0

CLEAN SHEETS

	Clean sheet	Failed to score
Arsenal	5	2
Aston Villa	3	4
Barnsley	2	5
Blackburn	6	2
Bolton	3	4
Chelsea	4	0
Coventry	4	5
Crystal Palace	3	5
Derby	2	2
Everton	2	3
Leeds Utd	3	5
Leicester	5	3
Liverpool	2	1
Manchester Utd	7	3
Newcastle	4	1
Sheffield Wed	2	1
Southampton	2	6
Tottenham	4	6
West Ham	1	3
Wimbledon	1	4

INTERNET

FA Premiership clubs' official websites	
Arsenal	www.arsenal.co.uk
Aston Villa	—
Barnsley	—
Blackburn	www.rovers.co.uk
Bolton	www.boltonwfc.co.uk
Chelsea	www.chelseafc.co.uk
Coventry	www.ccfc.co.uk
C Palace	www.cpfc.co.uk
Derby	—
Everton	evertonfc.merseyworld.com
Leeds	www.lufc.co.uk
Leicester	www.lcfc.co.uk
Liverpool	—
Man Utd	www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu
Newcastle	www.newcastle-utd.co.uk/nufc
Sheff Wed	—
Southampton	www.soton.ac.uk/~saints
Tottenham	www.spurs.co.uk
West Ham	www.westhamunited.co.uk
Wimbledon	—
FA Premiership	www.fa-carling.com

WEEKEND MATCHES

TODAY

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated ** denotes all-ticket*
Pools coupon numbers in brackets
In Premiership fixtures, † denotes sold out, otherwise seats available

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Coventry v Everton
(2) † Liverpool v Derby
(3) † Manchester Utd v Barnsley
(4) † Newcastle v Blackburn
(5) Sheffield Wed v Crystal Palace
(6) †* Southampton v Tottenham
(7) Wimbledon v Leeds

Nationwide League
First division

(8) Birmingham v Oxford Utd
(9) Bradford v Crewe
(10) Huddersfield v Portsmouth
(11) Ipswich v Bury
(12) Middlesbrough v Port Vale
(13) Stockport v Wolverhampton
(14) Stoke v Sunderland
(15) Swindon v Norwich
(16) Tranmere v Charlton
(17) West Bromwich v Sheffield Utd

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
* Nottm Forest	13	9	2	2	19	7	29
Sheff Utd	11	7	4	0	23	8	25
Swindon	14	6	5	3	17	17	23
Charlton	12	6	3	3	25	16	21
Middlesbrough	11	6	3	2	22	12	21
Port Vale	14	6	3	5	22	17	21
Bradford	13	5	6	2	16	15	21
West Brom	13	6	3	4	15	13	21
Stoke	12	6	3	3	14	12	21
Wolverhampton	13	5	4	4	17	15	19
QPR	13	5	4	4	17	20	19
Sunderland	13	5	3	5	17	16	18
Birmingham	12	5	3	4	15	10	18
Stockport	14	4	4	6	22	26	16
Crewe	13	4	4	5	17	18	16
Bury	14	3	7	4	16	20	16
Norwich	13	4	4	5	9	18	16
* Reading	14	3	5	6	13	21	14
Oxford Utd	14	4	1	9	19	27	13
Tranmere	12	3	2	7	17	18	11
Ipswich	11	2	5	4	10	12	11
Man City	11	2	4	5	16	14	10
Portsmouth	13	2	4	7	16	22	10
Huddersfld	13	0	4	9	8	28	4

* not including last night's match

Second division

(18) Bristol Rovers v Blackpool
(19) Burnley v Bournemouth
(20) Chesterfield v Wycombe
(21) Fulham v Northampton
(22) Gillingham v Plymouth
(23) Grimsby v Watford
(24) Luton v Brentford
(25) Millwall v Wigan
(26) Preston v Wrexham
(27) Southend v Oldham
(28) Walsall v Bristol City
(29) York v Carlisle

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	14	10	2	2	24	10	32
Northampton	14	7	5	2	16	9	26
Gillingham	14	7	3	4	22	15	24
Oldham	14	6	5	3	24	19	23
Bristol Rov	14	6	5	3	21	16	23
Bristol City	13	7	2	4	20	13	23
Millwall	12	7	2	3	17	10	23
Wycombe	14	6	4	4	26	22	22
Bournemouth	14	5	6	3	14	10	21
Blackpool	14	6	2	6	21	24	20
York	14	5	4	5	17	17	19
Preston	14	5	4	5	15	12	19
Wrexham	13	5	3	5	21	18	18
Wigan	14	5	2	7	21	25	17
Chesterfield	14	4	5	5	15	16	17
Fulham	14	5	2	7	12	15	17
Grimsby	14	4	5	5	12	16	17
Luton	14	4	4	6	11	19	16
Brentford	14	4	3	7	19	23	15
Walsall	14	4	2	8	19	25	14
Southend	14	4	2	8	14	26	14
Plymouth	14	1	8	5	15	22	11
Carlisle	14	3	2	9	14	24	11
Burnley	14	1	8	5	12	16	11

Third division

(30) Cardiff v Hartlepool
(31) Chester v Macclesfield
(32) Exeter v Scunthorpe
(33) Hull v Brighton
(34) Leyton Orient v Colchester
(35) Lincoln v Darlington
(36) Mansfield v Barnet
(37) Notts County v Cambridge Utd
(38) Peterborough v Torquay
(39) Rochdale v Rotherham
(—) Shrewsbury v Scarborough

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Exeter	14	8	5	1	22	13	29
Peterborough	14	8	3	3	32	16	27
Notts County	14	7	6	1	21	13	27
Barnet	14	7	3	4	22	18	24
Hartlepool	14	5	7	2	22	18	22
Colchester	14	6	4	4	21	20	22
Macclesfield	14	5	7	2	20	14	22
Lincoln	13	6	4	3	13	12	22
Scarborough	14	6	3	5	22	20	21
Mansfield	14	6	3	5	16	12	21
Scunthorpe	13	6	3	4	12	11	21
Torquay	14	5	5	4	20	18	20
Chester	14	6	1	7	21	25	19
L Orient	14	4	6	4	15	14	18
Camb Utd	14	4	5	5	19	18	17
Cardiff	13	3	8	2	13	13	17
Rotherham	14	3	7	4	21	21	16
Rochdale	14	5	1	8	20	19	16
Shrewsbury	14	4	4	6	18	20	18
Hull	14	4	2	8	16	23	14
Darlington	14	2	7	5	14	18	13
* Swansea	14	3	1	10	14	25	10
Brighton	13	2	3	8	11	21	9
* Doncaster	14	0	4	10	10	33	4

* not including last night's match

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Dover v Woking
(—) Gateshead v Telford
(—) Stevenage v Hednesford

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(40) Celtic v St Johnstone
(41) Dundee Utd v Rangers
(42) Kilmarnock v Hibernian
(43) Motherwell v Aberdeen

First division

(44) Falkirk v Dundee
(45) Greenock Morton v Ayr
(46) Partick v Hamilton
(47) Raith v Stirling
(48) St Mirren v Airdrie

Second division

(49) Brechin v Forfar
(—) Clyde v Clydebank
(—) East Fife v Inverness CT
(—) Livingston v Stenhousemuir
(—) Queen of South v Stranraer

Third division

(—) Albion v Queen's Park
(—) Alloa v East Stirling
(—) Arbroath v Montrose
(—) Dumbarton v Berwick
(—) Ross County v Cowdenbeath

FA CUP: Fourth qualifying round: Altrincham v Morecambe, Basingstoke v Braintree Tn, Billericay v Camberley Town, Blyth Spartans v Kidderminster, Bognor Regis v Farnborough, Bromsgrove v Romford, Cheltenham v Sutton United, Enfield v Carshalton; Gainsborough v Halifax, Gloucester v Wisbech, Halesowen v Northwich, Heybridge v Ashford; Hinckley United v Colwyn Bay, Ilkeston v Hyde; King's Lynn v Salisbury, Knypersley Vic v Boston; Nuneaton v Emley; Runcorn v Lincoln United, Rushden & Diamonds v Boreham Wood, Sittingbourne v Hereford; Slough v Kingstonian, Southport v N Ferriby; St Albans v Hendon, Stalybridge v Solihull, Tiverton Tn v Sudbury Tn, Winsford v Penrith, Yeovil v Hayes.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Merthyr, Burton Albion v Cambridge City; Dorchester v Gresley; Forest Green v St Leonards, Hastings v Rothwell, Tamworth v Crawley. **Midland division:** Bilston v Bedworth; Brackley Town v Shepshed D, Evesham v Corby; Raunds T v RC Warwick, Redditch v Paget R; Stafford v Blakenall, Sutton Coldfield Town v Stourbridge; VS Rugby v Grantham. **Southern division:** Bashley v Dartford, Clevedon v Baldock; Erith and Belvedere v Chelmsford; Fisher London v Cirencester Town, Newport (IoW) v Trowbridge; Waterlooville v Cinderford, Weymouth v Tonbridge Angels, Witney v Newport AFC, Yate v Weston-super-Mare.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Alfreton v Radcliffe, Bishop Auckland v Leigh RMI, Chorley v Guiseley, Lancaster v Bamber Bridge, Marine v Frickley, Spennymoor v Accrington Stanley. **First division:** Ashton United v Congleton; Droylsden v Buxton; Farsley Celtic v Alfreton: Flixton v Great Harwood, Matlock Town v Whitley Bay, Stocksbridge PS v Netherfield, Trafford v Bradford Pk Ave, Whitby v Belper Town; Workington v Eastwood Town, Worksop v Harrogate Town.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford v Purfleet, Bromley v Gravesend and Northfleet; Dagenham and Redbridge v Yeading; Hitchin v Harrow; Oxford City v Dulwich, Walton and Hersham v Aylesbury. **First division:** Aldershot Town v Barton Rovers; Chertsey v Hampton; Grays v Thame United; Leyton Pennant v Abingdon Town, Molesey v Maidenhead, Uxbridge v Croydon, Wokingham v Leatherhead, Worthing v Berkhamsted. **Second division:** Barking v Canvey Island: Bedford T v Wealdstone; Cheshunt v Chalfont St Peter; Edgware v Tooting and Mitcham; Egham v Banstead, Horsham v Hungerford, Marlow v Tilbury; Northwood v Witham; Windsor and Eton v Met Police, Wivenhoe v Bracknell. **Third division:** Aveley v H Hempstead, Corinthian-Casuals v Southall; Croydon v Ford United, Epsom and Ewell v Hertford; Harlow v Kingsbury, Hornchurch v Flackwell Heath, Lewes v East Thurrock, Wingate and Finchley v Ware.

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Second qualifying round: Canertown v First Tower.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City v Carmarthen Town (2 0); Caernarfon v Cwmbran (2 0); Conwy v Caersws (2 30), Flint Town v Barry (2 30); Haverfordwest v Rhyl (2 30), Newtown v Porthmadog (2 30); Rhayader Town v Cemaes Ynys Mon (2 30), TNS v Ebbw Vale (2 30), Welshpool v Aberystwyth (2 30).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Cliftonville; Ballymena v Crusaders, Glentoran v Glenavon; Omagh v Linfield, Portadown v Coleraine. **First division:** Ballyclare v Newry, Distillery v Limavady United; Dungannon Swifts v Bangor; Larne v Carrick.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Finn Harps v UCD (7 30), Kilkenny v Derry (7 30), Sligo v Cork (7 30).

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Clachnacuddin v Elgin, Cove v Buckie Thistle, Fraserburgh v Fort William, Nairn County v Keith, Rothes v Forres Mechanics; Wick Academy v Huntly.

TOMORROW

Kick-off 3 0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

† Arsenal v Aston Villa (4 0)
† Bolton v Chelsea

Nationwide League
First division

QPR v Manchester City (1 0)

LEAGUE OF WALES: Connah's Quay v Inter Cable-Tel (2 30).

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bohemians v Shelbourne (3 15).

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Arsenal v Wembley (at Bromley FC, 2 0), Everton v Millwall (at Marine FC, 1.0), Liverpool v Tranmere (at Kirkby Sports Centre, 12 30).

COVERAGE

TELEVISION: BBC1: Today: *Football Focus*, from 12.20pm; *Match of the Day* (includes Liverpool v Derby), from 10.50pm. Tomorrow: *Match of the Day* (repeat), from 7.15am. Sky Sports: 1: Tomorrow: Goals on Sunday, from 11am; Arsenal v Aston Villa (live), from 3pm; Spanish league, Deportivo La Coruña v Celta Vigo, from 12.30am. 2: Today: *Soccer AM*, from 8am. Tomorrow: *Soccer Xtra*, from 8am; Queens Park Rangers v Manchester City (live), from 12pm (highlights from 8pm). 3: Tomorrow: Premiership highlights, from 10pm.

RADIO: BBC Radio 5 Live: Today: Live coverage in *Sport on 5*, from 1pm. Tomorrow: Arsenal v Aston Villa (live) in *Sunday Sport*, from 1pm.

It's Chelsea players coming home
AIRPORT ARRNALS
Tony Husband

Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

هكذا من الاصل

The Lion hunting bigger games

Matt Dawson's tries in South Africa guarantee nothing in terms of selection for England

DAVID HANDS

Images of the British Isles' triumphant tour to South Africa in the summer are easily summoned, a mere three months after the event. One of them is of a slight, crop-haired figure ghosting past an apparently transfixed defence, casually touching down and then sharing the moment with rugby's Barmy Army in Cape Town.

"If you watch the video," Matt Dawson says, "all I do is run to the fence, wave at the fans and then walk straight back." Dawson had just scored the try that reversed a thousand opinions and suggested that the Lions might, just might, have developed the personality and the character to go where, a year earlier, New Zealand had gone and beat the Springboks on their own soil.

But if, for others, it was a defining moment of the tour, a moment for histrionic celebration, for Dawson it was not. The Northampton scrum half learnt a harsh lesson a year ago — that no one offers guarantees in international sport. He assimilated his removal from the England squad so well that, even after sharing in victory in the first international in Cape Town, he refused to believe that the Lions' No 9 shirt would also be his a week later in Durban.

"Despite everything that happened in the summer, I would never regard myself as being in pole position for England," Dawson, whose sixth cap came against Australia in Sydney in July, said. "Even if Austin [Healey] and Kyran [Bracken] were injured, and I had been having the best games of my life, I wouldn't regard my selection as certain."

Such is the rollercoaster that Dawson has occupied over the last two years. At Franklin's Gardens, his qualities have been continually assessed and appreciated since he arrived in Northampton five years ago, aged 19, fresh from Marlow. England took a look at him on tour in Canada in 1993 with the A squad but a badly torn hamstring set him back and it was a further two years before Jack Rowell decided that the Northampton half-backs, Dawson and Paul Grayson, were ready for England.

Ready only for that season: a year later Dawson was dropped for the meeting with Italy. "I spent a week moping around but worrying doesn't get the place back," Dawson said. "I had to disregard the England games, the A games and tell myself that I had to play out of my skin in every club game, and that's what got me onto the Lions tour."

The cynics would say that Ian McGeechan's influence — as director of rugby at Northampton and coach to the Lions — was of material assistance but McGeechan would have no part in the discussion of players from his own club, and Dawson's own form on tour (he scored two of the Lions' three tries in the three-match series) flung the lie back in the teeth of his critics. It takes a special quality to inherit the mantle of one of the world's leading players — the injured Robert Howley — and to compete on an equal footing with one of the other class acts, Joost van der Westhuizen.

That tour has made Dawson a stronger, better competitor. "You can never sit back and rely on what happened last summer but what does remain with you is the memory of what it took to get there, what we went through before we won the series in Durban," Dawson said.

"Two weeks ago, when Northampton weren't going so well, I went back to the tour and tried to reconstruct parts of the approach to the big games.

"I remember thinking how nothing else mattered than to play five minutes, 20 minutes, a whole game for the Lions. I remember rooming with Neil Jenkins in Durban and how both of us, even Jenks with his 50 caps for Wales, were desperate to play just the once for the Lions. That's the quality of thought those of us on the tour bring back to the club and what we need to produce, week after week." It worked last week. Having stumbled through the European Conference, Northampton's level of preparation went up several notches and they beat Leicester, the Pilkington Cup holders, in the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

The tour helped develop an equilibrium in Dawson which, at base, was probably there anyway. The younger of two children, his love of the game was fostered by the enthusiasm of his father, Ron, and at the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, although his performance on the games field was not matched by success in the classroom.

Northampton welcomed him aboard, played him at centre, and dispatched him for three months to the Te Awamutu club in Waikato, New Zealand, where he discovered the qualities of mental hardness that were to stand him in such good stead later on. He worked for, and retains strong links with, the Firm Security company in Northampton before accepting the suggestion of his flatmate and fellow player, Brett Taylor, and becoming a student teacher at Spratton Hall preparatory school.

"When I finish in the first-class game, I wouldn't go back to teaching in the formal sense but I have an eye on taking a degree and I would like to coach," Dawson said. "I've found I'm quite good at communication and you have to look at opportunities which will dovetail with the end of your active career. That's the advantage of rugby.

"The decision to become a full-time professional was made easier by that fact that I had no qualification to do anything else. I always wanted to be a rugby player and, now that the corporate side of the game is developing, you never know who you'll meet. I enjoy meeting the chairman of this company or the managing director of that company, and there are a lot of successful business people in Northampton who tend to converge on the club."

It is a case, you might say, of a scrum half exploiting the gap when it occurs. Northampton was right for Dawson and he believes he is right for the club; he has a loyalty to the Saints that would take an uncommon amount of money to shift, and a perspective that other players would do well to note. "You can't just walk into a club and expect money — you have to earn it," he said.

"There has to be something else — as an ambitious player, I want to be part of a team that plays a cup final, plays in Europe, wins the league. When we get into the top four our players will deserve more — and they will probably get it."

By then, too, Dawson will have discovered whether England's new management also feel that he is right for them.

MIKE HUTCHINGS

Dawson, the hub of the British Isles XV, is now seeking to cement his place at scrum half in the England team once again on the back of impressive displays for Northampton

Television cameras provide some light relief after poor performance in home defeat

Sky no longer the limit as interest rate soars

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO

This week the television cameras have been at Wasps filming the credits for the new *Rugby Express* series on Channel 5, which is taking over from the BBC's *Rugby Special*. We opened our facilities to about fifty or sixty players from local junior clubs, plus camera crews, for the three-day shoot. It's nice for them to come to a club like ours and I hope they enjoyed the experience. It is good to see that rugby is going to get exposure on terrestrial television.

There are a lot of people who miss the Sunday afternoon rugby slot and the chance it provided for them to catch up with the week's events. It's important for the profile of the game that it has as many avenues for exposure. I have Sky and I'm a big fan, but there is a need to offer the people who don't have Sky, or don't want it, the chance to watch these matches. It's great for rugby.

The media is part and parcel of the game. The coverage has never been greater for rugby than it is now on radio and televison and in the newspapers. I did a forum on the Internet for my book launch and the amount of questions that came through was huge; it reinforces the level of interest in the game.

As far as handling the media is concerned, people ask you questions and you give them honest answers — that's what people want. You have got to be sensible about when is the right time to talk to the media. Alex Ferguson lets his Manchester United players know when that is: that's the example for others to follow.

It was disappointing to have lost our first home league game against Saracens last Sunday. Perhaps we got a little bit too carried away with our European success — although they were hard games, we were not having to work so hard for victory in certain matches. We lost the game because we underperformed. This season, if you play badly you lose, whereas last year, even if we didn't perform, we managed to get away with a narrow win, particularly against sides such as Bristol and Northampton. It is going to be a lot more competitive this season. Bath lost the opener against Newcastle and have improved since then; Leicester, a side whose hallmark was getting out of jail when they underperformed, went to Northampton last week and got a substantial beating. Their meeting this weekend will be fascinating.

We didn't lose through complacency — Saracens are a good side, we knew that — but, in Europe, we were successful with first-phase possession a lot more than we would be against a good defensive side in the league. We would win a lineout and drive through the middle or we would have a back-row move off a scrum and it would be successful. We hadn't really been asked questions in terms of retaining possession and putting together phases of play that are going to create pressure.

What last week taught us is that we have to get back to being patient in both attack and defence. We created chances but didn't take them. There is not going to be any panic, though. We just had an extremely bad day at the office. We had an extra training session on Wednesday to work on things; work it out of our system.

I take losing very, very personally indeed and you can't exorcise that feeling until you play the next game, which is London Irish tomorrow. We will be without Andy Gomarsall and Alex King, who are both injured.

One of the reasons we were so successful last season was that we were able to limit the number of injuries. There is an element of luck about that, but it was also to do with the team being incredibly fit. If you are fit, you won't get what I call avoidable injuries, such as pulled calf muscles.

It's important to have strength in depth, particularly at half back; No 9and No 10 are pivotal positions. We have Martin Wood, the England Under-21 scrum half, so his coming in is not a weakness. Gareth Rees has played more than 40 times for Canada at fly half, so there wouldn't be a weakness there, either, and Guy Gregory, whose goalkicking was responsible for getting us into Europe, is also around.

Johnson's men need a lift

By David Hands

EARLY in the Allied Dunbar Premiership season it may be, but neither Bath nor Leicester, who meet at Welford Road today, are accustomed to looking up the table to see who is perched ahead of them. Yet the days when these clubs provided the defining moments of an entire season are gone — money has seen to that.

"Clubs like ourselves, Bath and Wasps can no longer play at 70 per cent and hope to win," Martin Johnson said. "But you need that competition. Newcastle and Richmond [respectively first and third in the division] have come in, fresh and keen; Saracens, Gloucester, everyone has a competitive squad. If you have a bad day, you are going to be beaten."

Johnson's Leicester players had such a day at Northampton last weekend, and the team had been misfiring even before defeat at Franklins Gardens. Johnson, who captained the British Isles in South Africa, admits that many of his Lions colleagues — five from Leicester — are not displaying their best form.

He attributes that to disruption in the pre-season but also acknowledges the possibility of staleness affecting players involved in so long a domestic 1996-97 season and then striving for even greater peaks with the Lions. The inspiring example to others is that he holds his own form so well, but if the visit of Bath does not act as a spur to an unchanged Leicester XV, nothing will.

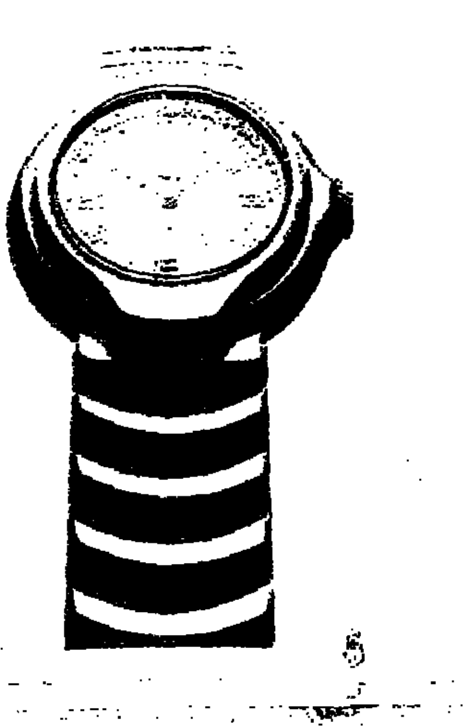
"Bath and Leicester has been, and always will be, special," Jonathan Callard, picked by Bath at full back ahead of Ian Balshaw, said. "The tradition and the trophies we have collected guarantees long-term rivalry, hostility and respect."

Leicester have played only two premiership games, as have Wasps, the champions. The Londoners are involved in one of four first division matches being played tomorrow in a busy weekend for the capital. Harlequins, with Massimo Cuttitta returning from duty with Italy, play Sale today and London Irish and Saracens (against Gloucester) are in action tomorrow.

To add spice, London Scottish play Bedford this afternoon in the clash between the clubs leading the second division, but all their first division rivals will be looking north to see Newcastle's result against a resurgent Richmond, with whom they were promoted last season. Richmond's second-half display against Harlequins last weekend, prompted by Allan Bateman, was extraordinary and Newcastle remain without two England internationals, Tim Stimpson (damaged thigh) and John Bentley. Stuart Legg plays full back and Bentley is only a replacement.

Richmond have yet to defeat Newcastle in the league and will look to Bateman to display his midfield skills against an old acquaintance from rugby league days, Va'aiga Tuigamala. Wales, too, will be encouraged by Bateman's form, with internationals against Tonga and New Zealand looming, and their selectors will make further assessments today when Cardiff play Ebbw Vale and Pontypridd visit Newport in the Welsh League.

David Young, Cardiff's experienced prop, has damaged ribs and two other internationals, Robert Howley and Emyr Lewis, may be rested.



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SNOOKER

White back in fast lane to ease into semi-finals

By Phil Yates

JIMMY WHITE provided incontrovertible evidence that his confidence has been restored during a 5-0 victory over Mick Price in the quarter-finals of the Grand Prix at Bournemouth yesterday.

White, whose demeanour oozed the renewal of self-belief, required only 65 minutes to brush aside an opponent with an unblemished record in their three previous encounters. Immediately stamping his authority on the contest, White compiled a fluent 105 break in the opening frame, added a run of 83 in the third and completed the whitewash with a 94 break in the fifth.

That list of contributions could have been enhanced had it not been for workmen repairing the roof of the venue. They made such a clatter during the fourth frame that White missed a simple red when in prime position.

The disturbance proved only a minor irritation. Price failed to capitalise and White secured his first appearance in the semi-finals of a ranking tournament since the Embassy World Championship of May 1995.

"I'm enjoying it so much I just want this run to carry on," White said. "I put in a lot of work at Brixton Snooker Centre during the summer and it's made me mentally strong. I'd gotten lazy and was taking things for granted. There's still a need to steady down but I'm very happy with the way I'm playing."

White, who lost his initial 11 matches last season and began the present campaign at 21st in the world rankings, continues the attempt to win his first tournament since the 1993 European League when he meets Dominic Dale.

White was beaten by Dale 5-2 in the first round of the British Open six months ago, a result that heavily contributed to White's relegation from the game's elite top 16 after an unbroken occupation of 15 years.

On that occasion White's flight from London to Plymouth was delayed, hampering his preparation, and he admitted to "taking a liberty and having a late night." Dale cannot expect to benefit from a rival bearing the burden of a self-inflicted handicap this evening.

TENNIS

Kiefer feels pressure on home front

From Julian Muscat, Tennis Correspondent in Stuttgart

THE last five days have offered Nicolas Kiefer a precious insight into the demands awaiting him as the rising star in German tennis. In front of increasingly expectant galleries, Kiefer finally came up empty yesterday when Jonas Bjorkman brushed him aside in the quarter-finals of the Eurocard Open.

It has been quite a week for Kiefer, already the youngest winner on the Tour this year. His relentless march towards the elite has coincided neatly with his usurping Boris Becker as the highest-ranked player in Germany. With it comes Kiefer's responsibility to uphold his country's enormous investment in the men's game.

Seven high-profile tournaments, with prize funds of more than $18 million (about £11.3 million), have been scheduled here next year. Few would be commercially viable without a German flagbearer in the mould of Becker.

Despite yesterday's reverse, Kiefer, 20, has vindicated the belief that he can fill the departing Becker's shoes. His defeat of Greg Rusedski on Wednesday demonstrated a maturity beyond his years, and an epic contest with Paul Haarhuis, which ended very late on Thursday night, underlined his steely resolve. That marathon contest, in which Kiefer saved two match points, effectively brought him to his knees. He duly collapsed against Bjorkman — yet the experience will have fortified him for a hectic schedule next year.

Kiefer agreed that playing up to his best, day after day, had left him drained. "The problem for me was that I was a little bit tired," he said. "Now I am No 1 in Germany everybody wants to see me win. If I win, everybody is happy. And if I lose, they say, 'Hell, what are you doing?' It is not easy."

Bjorkman, by contrast, faces no such burden of expectancy. If the Swede, ranked No 13 in the world, is progressing smartly enough, the interest of his countrymen has long since been saturated by the brilliance of Stefan Edberg and Bjorn Borg before him. Not a single Swedish journalist is here to chart his passage.

Nevertheless, as Tim Henman discovered in the previous round, Bjorkman is mighty difficult to suppress. He pressured the Kiefer serve at will, and when the German indulged in baseline rallies, a spate of unforced errors gave Bjorkman the encouragement that he needed to triumph 6-4, 6-2. Like so many raw talents, Kiefer has much to grasp in the realm of tactics.

If Kiefer must emerge from Becker's formidable shadow, he can at least tap into the great man's wisdom. Becker is manager of the Mercedes team, in which Kiefer is a vital component. Becker will doubtless shape Kiefer's mind but he can do nothing to shape his style, for Kiefer is close to being a clone of Andre Agassi. He looks like the American, hits like him, walks like him, even dresses like him.

Let us hope that he has more ambition; after talking of his new-found commitment, Agassi has inexplicably pulled out of the Super 9 tournament in Paris next week. In that event, Henman plays Hicham Arazi in the opening round, while Rusedski, seeded No 4, plays the winner of the match between Jan Siemerink and Todd Martin in the second round.

RALF STOCKHOFF

Bjorkman plays a return to Kiefer on his way to victory in the quarter-finals of the Eurocard Open yesterday

Janes spurns Trophy chance

By Alix Ramsay

WATCHING Amanda Janes play tennis should carry a Government health warning. Yesterday she had the chance to win the Maureen Connolly Trophy for Britain, but over the course of a tense two hours she managed to lose to Mary Carlisle White 4-6, 7-5, 6-8, leaving the United States in with a chance at 5-2.

It was not an easy afternoon. Her mother, Christine Truman, professes to leave her daughter alone to be her own person. But when it comes to watching her play, the 1961 Wimbledon finalist plays every shot with her daughter. Nervous tension was the order of the day — if you had plugged Truman into the National Grid, she would have lit Bradford for a week.

There was plenty to be nervous about. White played well to take control throughout the first set-and-a-half and, at 5-4, was serving for the match. Two match points came and went as Janes fought back and eventually broke to level the score at 5-5. The family sighs of relief could be heard around the Lancashire Club court in Manchester as White threw in the towel and Janes headed for a 5-2 lead in the third set. But mother knew best, as she She warned: "She can lose it from here, I've seen it happen before." Sure enough, the Janes first service stuttered and White perked up at the sight of a second chance.

Despite the disappointment, Britain were still only one rubber away from victory. The stage had been set earlier by Abigail Tordoff, who enjoyed a comfortable 6-4, 6-0 win over Lauren Kalvaria. Her opponent, without her trademark baseball cap, then beat Stephy Maybry 5-7, 6-1, 6-0, though Mandy Wainwright lost 4-6, 5-7 to Whitney Laiho.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Douglas looms large for Lewis

BOXING: James "Buster" Douglas, the former undisputed world heavyweight champion, is heading the queue of contenders for Lennox Lewis's World Boxing Council crown. Douglas and Lou Savarese, another American, are the opponents most favoured by Home Box Office, Lewis's American cable network, for a title defence in Las Vegas on February 21.

The plan is dependent on Lewis's failing in his attempt at a unification deal with Evander Holyfield, the World Boxing Association (WBA) champion, should he beat Michael Moorer, the International Boxing Federation holder, on November 8. Holyfield may be ordered to meet the winner of a WBA title final eliminator between Orlin Norris and another of the leading contenders.

Fair challenge

GOLF: Lora Fairclough, 27, the Solheim Cup player from Chorley, recorded a four-under-par 68 to be the leading British player — in joint fourteenth place on level-par, 216 — going into the fourth and final round of the United States LPGA Final Qualifying School at Daytona Beach, Florida. Only the leading 23 players and ties will secure players' cards.

Mather moves

RUGBY LEAGUE: Castleford Tigers yesterday signed Barrie-Jon Mather, 24, the former Wigan and Great Britain utility player, on a contract for next season, after the player's ill-fated two-year spell in Australia with the now defunct Perth Reds club.

High ambition

CYCLING: Stuart Dangerfield aims to win the national hill climb championship for the third successive year on the 1,704-metres ascent of Rowsley Bank, near Matlock, tomorrow.

Hawk eyes save Drakes from paying the penalty

By Mel Webb

A SHARP-EYED tournament official saved a player in the Eastern Home Counties and Anglia regional final of *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge yesterday from collecting a fistful of penalty shots that would have cost his team victory.

Danny Roe, at 16 the youngest player to have appeared in this regional final series, had 15 clubs in his bag — one more than the number allowed in the rules — as he prepared to start his round at Brocket Hall. If Dominic Warren, a member of the MMA event management team, had not spotted Roe's error he would have incurred a two-shot penalty on each hole, up to a maximum of four penalties.

Those four shots would have prevented Drakes Group Ltd from becoming the first company this year to claim a place in the national final for the second time. They appeared at La Manga in 1995 and finished out of the prizes. Paul Simcox, their captain, is single-minded in his intention that they will do better this year.

Warren's hawk eyes were given even more importance by the fact that Roe and Simcox started on the 10th, and since they won the competition from ITM Ltd only after a countback of the inward nine holes, the points that Roe would have failed to score on the 10th and 11th would have left Drakes Group cursing, out of the winners' enclosure. HM Customs and Excise Investigation Service, national finalists last year, were third again after a countback against National Mutual Life.

Another quirk of fate in Drakes's success came in the person of Peter Gyoury. In 1995 he came into the team after one of the original four had to withdraw, and the same happened this time. "He's our lucky mascot," Simcox said.

In a cute piece of team management, Simcox, who had played the demanding Brocket Hall course before, paired himself with Roe, an eight-handicapper, who had not. In the other pairing Gyoury, also off eight, played with Phil Morris.

Simcox's strategy produced two solid two-balls that scored consistently over the 18 holes. Simcox and Gyoury, La Manga veterans both, will be hoping to give their team their local knowledge of the South Course. Amid the heat and shredded nerves of the La Manga showdown, that could be vital.

RESULTS: 76: Drakes Group Ltd; ITM Ltd (Drakes Group win on countback). 75: HM Customs & Excise National Investigation Service; National Mutual Life (HM Customs & Excise third on countback). 73: Tullett & Tokyo Forex International. 71: Reuters Ltd (Columbia); Willis Corroon Group plc. 69: Hewitson Becke & Shaw; JPS (Office Supplies) Ltd. 68: General Signal Network Ltd; RAF Police Golf Association. 67: Trevor Jones; KPMG. 66: Aukett Associates; Whitbread plc. 65: WKD Builders & Decorators Ltd. 62: MacIntyre Hudson; The Comets New Scotland Yard; Steel Services (Great Yarmouth) Ltd. 61: Rowe & Maw; Vizards Solicitors. 60: Healthcall Group plc. 56: Schofield & Co Ltd; Mellon Fund Administration Ltd. 55: MeesPierson Securities (UK) Ltd. NR: International Petroleum Exchange.

GUIDE TO THE OTHER WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Askam v Wigan St Patrick's; Beverley v Egremont; Dudley Hill v Mayfield; Heworth v Woolston; Oldham St Anne's v Lock Lane; Walney Central v West Hull. First division: Barrow Island v Thornhill; East Leeds v Redhill; Millom v Blackbrook; Moldgreen v Milford; Oulton v Eastmoor; Skirlaugh v Shaw Cross; Wigan St Jude's v Leigh East. Second division: Crosfields v Dewsbury Moor; York Acorn v Normanton.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Barford Tigers v Cannock (at Alumwell Community Centre, Walsall, noon); Beeston v Doncaster (at Highfields, Nottingham, 1.30); Canterbury v Old Loughtonians (at Polo Farm, 2.0); East Grinstead v Teddington (at Saint Hill, 2.0); Guildford v Reading (at King's Manor School, noon); Hounslow v Southgate (at Dukes Meadows, 1.30).

EUROSPORT AND LEISURE SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division: Chichester v Fareham; Eastcote v Herne Bay; High Wycombe v Richmond; Old Whitgiftians v Anchorians; Purley v Maidenhead; Ramgarhia v City of Portsmouth; Trojans v Bournemouth; Tunbridge Wells v Winchester; Wimbledon v Beckenham; Woking v Gore Court. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Amersham v Marlow; Ashford v Gerrards Cross; Farnham Common v Hendon; Lions v Hayes; Milton Keynes v Phoenix; Newbury v Bracknell; PHC Chiswick v West Hampstead; Richings Park v Wokingham; Staines v Old Kingstonians; Sunbury v City of Oxford. Kent/Sussex: Ashford v Worthing; BBHC v Tulse Hill; Bexley Invicta v Burnt Ash; Blackheath v Brighton; Folkestone v Lloyds Bank; Horsham v Old Williamsonians; Marden Russets v Sevenoaks; Middleton-Bognor v Eastbourne; Old Bordenians v Mid Sussex; Old Holcombeians v Newhaven. Hampshire/Surrey: Andover v Oxshott; Basingstoke v Old Georgians; Blandford v Spencer; Cheam v Old Mid-Whitgiftians; London Univ v Dulwich; Old Cranleighans v Barnes; Oxted v Camberley; Petersfield v Epsom.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Clacton v Crostyx; Colchester v Ipswich; Luton Town v Cambridge City; Peterborough Tn v Bishop's Stortford; Sudbury v Cambridge Univ. Premier division B: Ipswich and E Suffolk v Romford; Norwich City v Bedford; Redbridge and Ilford v Old Southendian; St Ives v Bury St Edmunds; West Herts v Dereham.

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich v Olton and West Warwicks; Coventry and North Warwicks v Nottingham; Hampton-in-Arden v Harborne; Khalsa v Edgbaston; North Stafford v Blossomfield; Northampton Saints v North Notts.

NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Ben Rhydding v Durham University; Chester v Formby; Harrogate v Wigan; Neston v Southport; Norton v Swalwell; Timperley v Sheffield Bankers.

WEST OF ENGLAND & SOUTH WALES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bristol Univ v Taunton Vale; Cheltenham v Exeter Univ; Clevedon v Bath Buccs; Swansea v Weston-super-Mare; Whitchurch v Robinsons.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leicester Riders v Watford Royals (7.30). Uniball Trophy: Derby Storm v Manchester Giants (7.30); Birmingham v Crystal Palace (7.30); Worthing Bears v Thames Valley Tigers (8.0).

BOXING: British and Commonwealth bantamweight championship: F Ampofo (London) v P Lloyd (Ellesmere Port, Commonwealth champion) (at Deeside Leisure Centre, Chester); European lightweight championship: O Cano (Sp, holder) v B Schwer (Luton) (in Zaragoza, Spain).

CYCLING: British universities' hill climb championship (at Curbar Gap, Baslow, 2.0).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Basingstoke Bison (6.30); Nottingham Panthers v Newcastle Cobras (7.0). Benson and Hedges Plate: Semi-finals, first leg: Telford Tigers v Peterborough Pirates (7.30); Paisley Pirates v Slough Jets (7.0).

LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society League: Premier division: Cheadle Hulme v Cheadle; Heaton Mersey v Mellor.

SNOOKER: Grand Prix (in Bournemouth).

SPEEDWAY: Craven Shield: Semi-final, second leg: Eastbourne (36) v King's Lynn (53) (7.0); Swindon (40) v Coventry (50) (7.30).

TENNIS: Maureen Connolly Trophy: Great Britain v United States (in Manchester); Girobank Tour event (in Taunton).

Tomorrow

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cannock v Beeston (at Morris Ground, 2.30); Doncaster v Barford Tigers (at Bennetthorpe, 2.0); Old Loughtonians v Guildford (at Chigwell, 1.30); Reading v Canterbury (at Sonning Lane, 2.0); Southgate v East Grinstead (at Trent Park, 2.0); Teddington v Hounslow (at Lensbury Club, 2.30). First division: Bromley v St Albans (at Priory Leisure Centre, Orpington, 1.0); Gloucester City v Firebrands (at Plock Court, 1.30); Hampstead and Westminster v Chelmsford (at Paddington Recreation Ground, 12.30); Harleston Magpies v Oxford Hawks (at Shotford Heath, 2.0); Havant v Brooklands (at Havant College, 2.0); Isca v Hull (at Exeter School, 1.0); Lewes v Indian Gymkhana (at South Down Club, 1.30); Loughborough Students v Blueharts (at Loughborough University, 2.30); Sheffield v Bournville (at Abbeydale Park, 2.30); Stourport v Oxford University (at Kidderminster School, 2.30); Warrington v Surbiton (at Penketh County School, 1.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester Jets v Newcastle Eagles (5.30); London Leopards v London Towers (6.30). Uni-ball Trophy: Manchester Giants v Sheffield Sharks (6.30).

CYCLING: National hill climb championships (at Rowsley Bank, Derbyshire, 10.0).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Sheffield Steelers v Basingstoke Bison (6.30); Bracknell Bees v Manchester Storm (6.0); Cardiff Devils v Newcastle Cobras (6.0). Benson and Hedges Plate: Semi-finals, second leg: Peterborough Pirates v Telford Tigers (6.15).

SNOOKER: Grand Prix (in Bournemouth).

RUGBY UNION FIXTURES

Today

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division

Harlequins v Sale
Leicester v Bath (2.15)

Second division

Coventry v Wakefield
Fylde v Blackheath
London Scottish v Bedford
Moseley v Orrell
Waterloo v Exeter
West Hartlepool v Rotherham

Jewson National League
First division

Liverpool St Helens v Harrogate
Lydney v Wharfedale
Newbury v Rosslyn Park
Otley v Leeds
Reading v Nottingham
Rugby v Morley
Worcester v London Welsh

Second division north

Aspatria v Preston Grasshoppers
Birmingham/Solihull v Winnington Park
Kendal v Stourbridge
Manchester v Sedgley Park
Sandal v Nuneaton
Sheffield v Lichfield
Walsall v Hinckley

Second division south

Barking v Bridgwater
Camberley v Weston-super-Mare
Clifton v North Walsham
Havant v Redruth
Met Police v Henley
Plymouth v Esher
Tabard v Cheltenham

SOUTH WEST: First division: Bracknell v Berry Hill; Gloucester Old Boys v Stroud; Maidenhead v St Ives; Matson v Barnstaple; Penzance/Newlyn v Launceston; Torquay v High Wycombe.

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: First division: Harlow v Old Mid-Whitgiftians; Norwich v Thanet Wanderers; Ruislip v Cheshunt; Southend v Thurrock; Staines v Askeans; Sudbury v Charlton Park; Sutton and Epsom v Guildford and Godalming; Wimbledon v Old Colfeians.

MIDLANDS: First division: Banbury v Wolverhampton; Burton v Broadstreet; Camp Hill v Belgrave; Derby v Barkers Butts; Hereford v Whitchurch; Leighton Buzzard v Westleigh; Mansfield v Syston; Scunthorpe v Stoke-on-Trent.

NORTH: First division: Bedlington v West Park Bramhope; Broughton Park v Middlesbrough; Macclesfield v Wigton; New Brighton v Hull Ionians; Stockton v Tynedale; Widnes v Doncaster.

Welsh League
Premier division

Cardiff v Ebbw Vale (2.30)
Llanelli v Swansea (6.0)
Neath v Bridgend (2.0)
Newport v Pontypridd (2.0)

First division

Aberavon v South Wales Police (2.0)
Abertillery v Rumney (2.0)
Dunvant v Llandovery (2.0)
Maesteg v Bonymaen (2.30)
Merthyr v Cross Keys (2.0)
Newbridge v Pontypool (2.0)
Treorchy v Blackwood (2.0)
Cardiff Inst v Caerphilly (2.0)

SECOND DIVISION: Abercynon v Narberth; Kenfig Hill v Pyle; St Peter's v Tondu; Ystradgynlais v Whitland; Llanharan v Mountain Ash; Tenby Utd v Tredegar.

SRU League Trophy
Group A

Edinburgh Acads v Hawick
Heriot's FP v Glasgow Hawks
Kirkcaldy v Gala
Melrose v Currie
Musselburgh v Preston Lodge

Group B

Biggar v West of Scotland
Boroughmuir v Kelso
Dundee HSFP v Kilmarnock
Jed-Forest v Peebles
Watsonians v Stirling County

Group C

Aberdeen GSFP v Stewart's Mel FP
Gordonians v Glenrothes

Group D

Hillhead/Jordanhill v Glasgow Southern
Selkirk v Ayr

Club match

Grangemouth v Stewartry

Tomorrow

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division

Bristol v Northampton
London Irish v Wasps
Newcastle v Richmond
Saracens v Gloucester

SRU inter-district championship

Edinburgh v Caledonia (at Inverleith)

Tour match

Redruth President's v Tonga XV (2.30)

BASEBALL

Hernandez holds Indians at bay

From Keith Blackmore in Cleveland

LIVAN HERNANDEZ, a 22-year-old defector from Cuba, carried the Florida Marlins on his broad shoulders to within a single victory of the World Series here on Thursday night. The Marlins beat the Cleveland Indians 8-7 to return to Miami with a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series.

If they win either of the remaining games, to be played at their own Pro Player Stadium tonight and tomorrow, they will take the oldest major championship in American sport less than five years after the formation of the club.

Hernandez, who was the winning pitcher in the opening game, came within two outs and a bad umpiring mistake of pitching a complete game, overcoming an attack of the jitters in the third inning to defeat Orel Hershiser, for the second time. A last, desperate rally by the Indians brought them three runs in the bottom of the ninth but they came up short when Sandy Alomar, their outstanding player, flied out to right field with a man on first base.

Alomar, whose three-run homer in the third had given Cleveland a 4-2 lead, deserved better but his team did not. Their last rally was founded on a dreadful piece of umpiring, when Ken Kaiser ruled that Hernandez had failed to put his foot on the base when running out Bip Roberts. Replays showed clearly that Roberts should have been given out.

Instead, the rally developed, Hernandez was replaced by Robb Nen and the Marlins gave up three runs, one fewer than they could afford. Hernandez had struggled badly in the first three innings, giving up seven walks. Afterwards, Jim Leyland, the Marlins manager, was asked if one more man on base then would have brought the end for Hernandez. "You'll never know," he replied with a grin.

Until the sixth, it seemed that Hershiser, at 39 the grand old warrior of the series, who would earn the pitching laurels. But when his nemesis, Moises Alou, who had struck a three-run homer off him in the first game, came to the plate in the sixth, Hershiser's confidence seemed to evaporate. Three pitches took almost five minutes and the third was dispatched over the leftfield fence for a three-run homer.

And so the day belonged once again to Hernandez, who shows every sign of being a pitcher for the ages. That he should be Cuban is all the more reason for him to be celebrated in Miami. That he should be so young is entirely appropriate for a man leading such a new team towards the sport's summit of achievement. His family, forced to stay in Cuba by the government, knew within minutes what he had done. How, he was asked. "It's a secret," he replied, as mysterious off the mound as he had been on it.

GAME FIVE DETAILS

Inning	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Runs	Hits	Errors
Florida	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	8	15	2
Cleveland	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	9	0

Winning pitcher: Livan Hernandez. Losing pitcher: Orel Hershiser. Save: Robb Nenn.

Florida lead series 3-2.

The World Series moves to Miami today for game six and (if required) seven tomorrow. The series is being televised live in Britain by Channel 5.

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET

Third Test match

Pakistan v South Africa

FAISALABAD (first day of five; South Africa won toss): Pakistan, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 198 runs behind South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings

G Kirsten not out ... 100
A M Bacher c sub b Wasim Akram ... 1
B M McMillan c sub b Wasim Akram ... 2
D J Cullinan lbw b Waqar ... 0
*W J Cronje lbw b Waqar Younis ... 9
S M Pollock c Aamir b Mushtaq Ahmed ... 5
†D J Richardson c Saqlain b Mushtaq Ahmed ... 8
L Klusener c Ijaz b Mushtaq Ahmed ... 18
P L Symcox b Wasim Akram ... 81
A A Donald c Mushtaq Ahmed b Wasim Akram ... 2
P R Adams lbw b Azhar ... 1
Extras (b 4, lb 3, nb 5) ... 12
Total ... 239

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-11, 3-12, 4-30, 5-40, 6-64, 7-98, 8-222, 9-230.

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 16-6-42-4; Waqar Younis 10-1-36-2; Mushtaq Ahmed 22-3-81-3; Azhar Mahmood 10.4-2-36-1; Saqlain Mushtaq 10-2-37-0.

PAKISTAN: First innings

Ali Naqvi b Donald ... 11
*Saeed Anwar lbw b Pollock ... 3
Ijaz Ahmed not out ... 15
Inzamam-ul-Haq not out ... 12
Total (2 wkts) ... 41

Aamir Sohail, †Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Azhar Mahmood, Waqar Younis, Saqlain Mushtaq and Mushtaq Ahmed to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-18

BOWLING: Donald 6-1-28-1; Pollock 5-2-12-1; Adams 2-1-1-0; Symcox 1-1-0-0

Umpires: S Dunn (New Zealand) and Mian Aslam (Pakistan).

TOUR MATCH: Cairns (third day of four): New Zealand 196 (B A Pocock 63) and 190-4 (S P Fleming 59 not out); Queensland 571-9 dec (M Love 201)

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Sydney (third day of four): Victoria 509-6 dec and 176-4 (I J Harvey 61 not out); New South Wales 407-4 dec (S R Waugh 202 not out, S Lee 81 not out). Perth (second day of four): Western Australia 477-5 dec (A C Gilchrist 203 not out, T M Moody 101); South Australia 124-6.

BADMINTON

SANTON: International match: England 0 China 5 (England names first: T Woodward lost to Pi Hongyan 5-11, 4-11; E Chaffin and S Hardaker lost to Liu Zhong and Huang Nanyan 8-15, 3-15; M Constable lost to Ji Xingpeng 8-15, 14-17; J Anderson and I Sullivan lost to Cheng Rui and Wang Wei 18-14, 13-15, 12-15, C Hunt and Hardaker lost to Zhu Feng and Pi 15-8, 8-15, 12-15).

BASEBALL

WORLD SERIES: Cleveland 7 Florida 8 (Florida lead best-of-seven series 3-2).

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leicester Riders 136 Derby Storm 134 (OT).

EUROPEAN CUP: Group A: CSKA Moscow 77 Efes Pilsen (Tur) 73; Limoges (Fr) 71 Real Madrid 85, Maccabi Tel Aviv 73 Olympiakos (Gr) 87. Group B: Croatia Split 72 Benetton Treviso (It) 77, Porto (Por) 89 Estudiantes Madrid 92. Group C: Kinder Bologna (It) 94 Ulkerspor (Tur) 84; Partizan Belgrade 88 Pau (Fr) 72; Hapoel Jerusalem 81 Barcelona 86. Group D: Olimpija Ljubljana (Slovenia) 99 Teamsystem Bologna (It) 68.

BOWLS

KINGSTHORPE: English women's indoor association international trial: Reds bt Whites 80-68.

YETTON TROPHY: EWIBA national inter-club championship: Preliminary round: Boston bt Stamford 77-66; Teignbridge bt Isca 99-58; Desborough (Maidenhead) bt Herga 103-53; Exonia bt Padbrook Park 94-67. Sidmouth bt Axminster 91-68; Budleigh Salterton bt South Hams 86-72; Torbay bt Exmouth Madeira 86-81; Sunderland bt Durham 90-64; Spennymoor bt Redcar 119-62; Lincoln bt Long Sutton 85-71; Addlethorpe bt Horncastle 87-63; Louth bt Scunthorpe 102-78; Sleaford bt West Lindsey 92-82; Grantham bt East Lindsey 87-69; Nottingham bt Ashfield 122-61; Charnwood bt South Forest 73-42; Melton Mowbray bt Newark 88-67; Barwell bt Church Gresley 79-65; Gedling bt Carlton 105-60; Bassetlaw bt Leicester 92-64; Cambridge Chesterton bt Turpins 93-54. Kettering bt Northampton 91-48; Felixstowe and Suffolk bt Sole Bay 78-59; West Mercia bt Bishop's Stortford 89-61; Towerlands bt Harwich 88-56; Essex County bt Colchester 113-44; Tilbury bt Jacks Centre 83-71; Harpenden bt Watford 81-79; Stevenage bt Bletchley 75-71; Slade bt Gosling 79-72; Rugby Thornfield bt Coventry 86-67; Gloucester bt Thamesdown 93-61; Swindon Westlecot bt Perdiswell 93-53; Bentham bt Fairford 88-71; Banister Park bt Riverside 120-50. Solent bt Arun 99-63; Bournemouth bt East Dorset 77-68; City of Bath bt Frome 83-78; Nailsey bt Bristol 89-72; Northavon bt Clarrie Dunbar 78-73; Christie Miller Moonrakers bt Fosseway 82-81; Taunton bt Yeovil 78-67; Weston St Andrews bt Woodspring 78-77; Minehead bt Ilminster 79-77; Donyatt bt Mid-Devon 85-58; Bridgwater bt Wellington 122-57.

BOXING

BUDAPEST: World amateur championships: Quarter-finals: 81kg: A Lebziak (Russ) bt T Borowski (Pol) 8-0; S Kirk (Ire) bt T Erolov (Bul) 10-9; F Serrat (Fr) bt M Benguesmia (Alg) 14-7; I Alvarez (Cuba) bt Y Ozturk (Tur) 13-1. +91kg: S Liakhovich (Bela) bt S Umirbekov (Kaz) 2-2 (tie-break). G Kandelaki (Geo) bt J F Bergeron (Can) 7-3; A Rubalcaba (Cuba) bt A Lezin (Russ) ko 4th. P Vidoz (It) bt Ahmed Abdel Samad (Egypt) 11-3. Semi-finals: 48kg: R Velasco (Phil) bt R Dydi (Slovakia) 7-4; M Romero (Cuba) bt D Petrov (Bul) 5-3. 54kg: W Font (Cuba) bt S Karacz (Tur) 9-1; R Malakhbekov (Russ) bt A Ramazyan (Arm) 16-3. 60kg: A Maletin (Russ) bt Shin Eun Chul (S Kor) 15-10; T Ulumen (Mong) wo K Gogoladze (Geo). 67kg: S Dzinziruk (Ukr) bt M Simion (Rom) 12-4; O Saitov (Russ) bt J H Sierra (Cuba) 5-4. 75kg: A Hernandez (Cuba) bt J-P Mendy (Fr) 7-1, E Zsolt (Hun) bt D Eigenbrodt (Ger) 7-5. 91kg: R Chegeav (Uzb) bt M Hanke (Ger) 12-7; F Savon (Cuba) bt T B Tomsen (Den) ret 3rd.

FOOTBALL

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPER CUP: Group one: Cruzeiro (Br) 2 Boca Juniors (Arg) 1; Independiente (Arg) 2 Colo Colo (Chile) 2. Group two: Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 3 San Pablo (Br) 3.

Thursday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Second round, first leg: Tromso (Nor) 3 Chelsea 2; AEK Athens 2 Sturm Graz (Austria) 0; Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 1 Vicenza (It) 3; Roda JC Kerkrade (Hol) 2 Primorje Ajdovscina (Slovenia) 0; Nice (Fr) 2 Slavia Prague 2; Germinal Ekeren (Bel) 0 VfB Stuttgart (Ger) 4; Real Betis (Sp) 2 FC Copenhagen 0.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton 4 Liverpool 3. Cup: Group three: Derby 2 Walsall 1.

FA YOUTH CUP: Third qualifying round: Great Wakering 3 Kings Lynn 2.

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundalk 1 Drogheda 1.

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Fluminense 1 Corinthians 0; Palmeiras 3 Atletico Paranaense 1; Bahia 1 Internacional 4.

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPERCUP: Group two: Flamengo (Br) 3 Olimpia (Par) 3. Group three: Racing Club (Arg) 2 Vasco da Gama (Br) 3; Santos (Br) 2 River Plate (Arg) 1. Group four: Gremio (Br) 3 Estudiantes (Arg) 2.

SCHOOLS MATCH: Premier League Trophy: Under-18: Hertfordshire 2 Bedfordshire 2.

GOLF

MADRID: Old Pro-Am: Leaders after two rounds (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 133: P McGinley 66, 67; M Campbell (NZ) 67, 66. 135: F Roca (Sp) 65, 70; R Russell 66, 69. P [illegible] (Sp) 67, 68; M A Jiménez (Sp) 67, 68. 136: R Boxall 64, 72; J Lomas 67, 69; D Smyth 69, 67. 137: W Riley (Aus) 71, 66; G Turner (NZ) 69, 68; J Pinero (Sp) 67, 70; G Evans 70, 67; H Clark 70, 67; I Pyman 68, 69; P Lawrie 71, 66. 138: J Spence 66, 72; P Harrington 72, 66; M Mouland 65, 73; I Garrido (Sp) 71, 67; P Sjoland (Swe) 69, 69; S Cage 70, 68; S Ames (Trin) 71, 67; J Rivero (Sp) 65, 73

LAS VEGAS: PGA Invitational: Leaders after two rounds (United States unless stated): 128: W Glasson 63, 65, W Mayfair 65, 63; D Waldorf 65, 63. 129: K Gibson 64, 65; S Lowery 65, 64. 130: B Fabel 64, 66. 131: E Tryba 66, 65; P Mickelson 68, 63, W Levi 66, 65. 132: M Calcavecchia 66, 66, K Sutherland 69, 63; T Dempsey 68, 64; T Woods 68, 64; E Johnson 67, 65. Other score: 148: A Lyle (GB) 74, 74

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 2 Tampa Bay 2 (OT). New Jersey 2 Montreal 1 (OT); Ottawa 2 Florida 2 (OT); Philadelphia 4 Calgary 3; St Louis 4 Vancouver 1; Phoenix 3 Washington 3 (OT); Los Angeles 1 Detroit 4.

RUGBY UNION

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Denstone 58 Bishop Vesey's 12; St Edward's, Oxford 67 Magdalen Coll 12.

SNOOKER

BOURNEMOUTH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE: Grand Prix: Quarter-finals: D Dale (Wales) bt C Small (Scot) 5-2; J White (Eng) bt M Price (Eng) 5-0.

SPEEDWAY

IPSWICH: 16 lapper: 1, C Louis (Ipswich) 27pts; 2, M Loram (Bradford) 18; 3, S Nicholls (Ipswich) 14; 4, T Gollob (Pol) 14; 5, K Tatum (Peterborough) 14; 6, S Parker (King's Lynn) 14.

SQUASH

KUWAIT: POW championship: Final: P Nicol (Scot) bt R Eyles (Aus) 15-6, 12-15, 16-17, 15-8, 15-4

MELBOURNE: Australian women's Open: Quarter-finals: E Irving (Aus) bt C Owens (Aus) 2-9, 9-0, 2-9, 9-7, 9-4; P Beams (NZ) bt C Jackman (GB) 4-9, 4-9, 9-4, 9-1, 9-7; S Fitz-Gerald (Aus) bt C Nitch (SA) 9-2, 9-2, 9-1; M Martin (Aus) bt L Joyce (NZ) 9-4, 9-0, 9-0

SRA NATIONAL LEAGUE: Group 6: Hartridge Chichester 5 University of Wales, Cardiff 0 (Chichester names first: N Dugan bt M Benjamin 10-8, 9-2, 9-1, P Genever bt G Tippings 3-9, 9-6, 9-6, 9-7; M Harris bt P Allen 9-5, 2-9, 9-10, 9-6, 9-7; T Vail bt G Webber 9-1, 10-8, 10-8; L Charmen bt J Wells 9-0, 9-0, 9-0).

TENNIS

STUTTGART: Men's tournament: Third round: N Kiefer (Ger) bt P Haarhuis (Hol) 6-7, 7-6, 7-5, M Larsson (Swe) bt F Santoro (Fr) 6-3, 7-5; T Martin (US) bt G Kuerten (Br) 6-3, 6-4. Quarter-finals: P Korda (Cz) bt M Rios (Chile) 6-3, 6-4; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt N Kiefer (Ger) 6-4, 6-2.

MEXICO CITY: Second round: J A Viloca (Sp) bt C Costa (Sp) 6-4, 6-3; F Clavet (Sp) bt J Burillo (Sp) 3-6, 6-4, 7-5; A Sa (Br) bt L Herrera (Mex) 2-6, 6-3, 6-4; J-A Marin (Sp) bt A Hernandez (Mex) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

LUXEMBOURG: Women's tournament: Second round: A-G Sidot (Fr) bt K Habsudova (Slovakia) 3-6, 6-2, 6-4; S Appelmans (Bel) bt H Sukova (Cz) 6-3, 6-7, 6-2; B Paulus (Austria) bt A Mauresmo (Fr) 7-6, 6-3; K Studenikova (Slovakia) bt K Po (US) 6-4, 6-2. Quarter-finals: Studenikova bt J Kruger (SA) 6-3, 6-4; Sidot bt H Nagyova (Slovakia) 6-4, 7-6.

QUEBEC CITY: Women's tournament: Second round: M A Vento (Ven) bt N Tauziat (Fr) 6-4, 6-3; D van Roost (Bel) bt A Miller (US) 6-1, 7-5; M Grzybowska (Pol) bt M de Swardt (SA) 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

MANCHESTER: Maureen Connolly Trophy: Great Britain under-21 5 United States under-21 1 (Great Britain names first: L Woodroffe bt J Trail 6-2, 6-7, 6-3; M Wainwright and A Tordoff bt J Trail and L Kalvaria 6-7, 6-1, 6-3; Tordoff bt Kalvaria 6-4, 6-1; L Latimer bt S Mebery 4-6, 6-1, 6-0).

هكذا من الأصل

RACING: PROMISING WOODS-TRAINED JUVENILE CAN CLAIM VALUABLE DONCASTER PRIZE

No reservations about Little Indian

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

LITTLE INDIAN can thwart his more fashionably-bred rivals in the Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster today — and rates one of the best each-way bets of the year at around 7-1. The Sean Woods-trained runner, well bought at only 21,000 guineas at Tattersalls sales last year, boasts the best form in a race in which there are question marks against several leading fancies.

Little Indian is a son of Little Missouri, a little-known sire yet one who has produced a classic winner. Little Missouri was an admirably tough racehorse in the United States who won $500,000 and eight races from six furlongs to 1½ miles. Retired to stud in 1988, he is hardly a household name among breeding pundits, but he has produced his fair share of pattern winners, most notably Prairie Bayou, who landed the Preakness Stakes, the second leg of the American Triple Crown, in 1993.

A fast-finishing third on his debut at Newmarket, Little Indian duly justified strong support when again finishing strongly to win at Haydock in July. Next stop was Goodwood for the Champagne Stakes, in which he again stayed on particularly well to finish a close third behind the smart pair, Central Park and Docksider.

However, it is the form of his latest start, when he won the group three Solario Stakes at Sandown, which points to his chance this afternoon. Outpaced turning for home, he relished the finishing climb and produced his distinctive strong run to grab the spoils from Tracking, the useful Henry Cecil-trained colt.

John Dunlop's well-regarded Haami, who finished third, subsequently captured the listed Somerville Tattersall Stakes at Newmarket, while fourth-placed Sharp Play, beaten almost fourth lengths, had finished second to King Of Kings and subsequently was beaten just over three lengths in the Royal Lodge Stakes. Moreover, fifth-placed Celtic Cavalier was an eye-catching second to King Of Kings in the National Stakes, in which he received a tender ride.

Given his style of racing, Little Indian looks sure to appreciate the step up to a mile — and the likely strong pace will suit him. Both Kilimanjaro and Mountain Song are best with forcing tactics and should set things up nicely for **LITTLE INDIAN**. Olivier Peslier, the outstanding French jockey, has been booked to ride.

Mudeer, winner of his two outings despite swishing his tail, is open to further improvement over this trip and holds each-way claims, although the Godolphin runner may lack the necessary class. The Alec Stewart-trained **Mutamam** has impressed on both starts but — significantly — his two victories came in slowly-run races and his form could be suspect.

Kilimanjaro looked a top-class colt in the making when winning in the mud at Sandown but failed to create the same impression on a faster surface in the Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot, where he was niggled along early on. The Michael Stoute-trained runner was held up that day, but is likely to race more prominently here.

Apart from Little Indian, the only runner with group winning form is **Saratoga Springs**, who won the Beresford Stakes at the Curragh last Sunday on soft ground. The Aidan O'Brien-trained runner had earlier returned a smart performance when landing the Acomb Stakes at York. In between, however, he had his limitations exposed behind Daggers Drawn at Doncaster.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: LITTLE INDIAN
(3.40 Doncaster)
Next best: Bristol Channel
(1.30 Newbury)

MARTIN LYNCH

Saratoga Springs represents Ireland in today's Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster

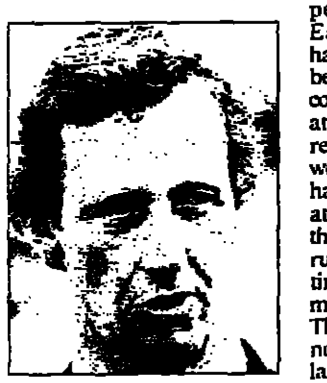
Bristol Channel to continue tide of success for Hills

NEWBURY

BBC1

1.30: Swing Sister showed her 25-1 winning debut at Nottingham last month was no fluke when running on strongly to finish a good second to Social Charter in a conditions event at Leicester 11 days ago. Mihnah relished the mud when winning a York maiden by five lengths from Love Academy (winner since) and will appreciate today's extra furlong. However, **Bristol Channel** looked above average when winning a maiden at Leicester last month and the form has worked out well. With Barry Hills's juveniles in top form, the Generous colt can make the necessary improvement.

2.00: The consistent Consort is well treated but always seems to find one too good.



Arbuthnot: high hopes

Mithali, proven on easy ground, has won two non-handicaps but looks plenty high enough in the weights. Strazo, effective making the pace or coming off it, has shown his best form on a sound surface — unlike **Prince Of Denial**. David Arbuthnot's runner disappointed on fast ground in the Cambridgeshire, but bounced back on good ground at Newmarket last Saturday when overcoming a poor draw to be a strong-finishing sixth behind Gulf Shaadi. Today's extra furlong should suit.

2.30: *Kallana can enhance* the excellent record of fillies in this race. The Luca Cumani-trained runner was a smooth winner of the Galtres Stakes from The Faraway Tree and Book At Bedtime (both winners since) before a creditable effort on unsuitably firm ground when fifth in the group one Prix Vermeille. The Slip Anchor filly should appreciate today's going. Salmon Ladder won this race last year from Kutta but Busy Flight, not disgraced in the Arc, is the best of the older generation.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

DONCASTER

CHANNEL 4

3.10: In a race with question marks against most runners, the in-form **Jo Mell** is the percentage call. Tim Easterby's progressive handicapper recorded his best effort when winning comfortably for today's rider at Ascot last time and a reproduction of that form would suffice. Swiss Law has claims judged on his run at Goodwood when first past the post but the Godolphin runner disappointed last time and Elegant Warning may pose the biggest threat. This group-placed filly was not disgraced behind Kahal last Saturday.

3.40: See above.

4.15: Deterrent overcame traffic problems to score in a conditions race at Salisbury and the form was boosted when the runner-up, Toblersong, obliged at Yarmouth on Wednesday. Reg Akehurst's runner reopposes on identical terms and there is no obvious reason why he should reverse the form. Monte Lemos, who appears to need good ground, looks the biggest danger.

4.45: The well-drawn **Zerpour** has plenty in his favour. Winner of a Newmarket maiden before floundering on false ground at York, Luca Cumani's runner did particularly well over an inadequate ten furlongs last time, just failing to hold the progressive Mithali. Kieren Fallon deserts Veridian in favour of Invermark, a good second at Haydock last time.

RICHARD EVANS

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

1.40 Sense Of Wonder
2.10 Billy Bushwacker
2.40 Crowded Avenue
3.10 Swiss Law
3.40 Mutamam
4.15 **MONTE LEMOS** (nap)
4.45 Zerpour

Timekeeper's top rating: 1.40 **BURNT YATES.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.40 **QUIET ASSURANCE** (nap).
4.15 Deterrent. 4.45 Invermark.

GOING: GOOD — DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

1.40 JOCK MURRAY MEMORIAL NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £6,164: 7f) (15 runners)

101	(3)	134243	SEA MAGIC 70 (S) (R Richards) B Hills 9-7	K Fallon	92
102	(1)	561	*FLORAZI 20 (D,F) (P Winfield) J Dunlop 9-7*	*M J Kinane*	*78*
103	(13)	01	SENSE OF WONDER 18 (F) (D Thompson) B Meehan 9-6	J Weaver	86
104	(14)	321400	LIDO 17 (F) (G Reed) B Hills 9-3	R Hills	88
105	(7)	5400410	BURNT YATES 12 (D,G) (I Bray) M W Easterby 8-10	J Reid	100
106	(9)	661600	*NAVIASKY 36 (F) (N Morton) Mrs J Ramsden 8-9*	J Fortune	*94*
107	(2)	0130	WELCOME SUNSET 36 (S) (J Goddard) J Wharton 8-9	C Lowther (5)	99
108	(12)	1433323	INCHALONG 9 (D,G) (Northgate Lodge Ptnrs) M Brittain 8-8	D Mernagh (7)	95
109	(15)	060010	PRAETORIAN GOLD 2 (G) (Gold Buster Syndicate (2)) R Hannon 8-7	O Peslier	88
110	(6)	10000	*PRINCESS NATALIE 6 (C,S) (M Burke's 5th Street) M W Easterby 8-7*	*T Lucas*	88
111	(5)	4103165	PENNILESS 96 (BF,G) (Cognac Promotions Ltd) N Tinkler 8-5	Kim Tinkler	88
112	(11)	00350	FALKENBERG 12 (B Yeardley Continental Ltd) M Johnston 8-0	N Adams	96
113	(8)	0000	LARAMANIA 8 (Lawrence & Vaughan) P Evans 7-13	D Wright	93
114	(4)	0013064	SANDMOOR TARTAN 8 (F) (Sandmoor Textiles Co) T Easterby 7-10	L Charnock	96
115	(10)	43355	FRANKIE FAIR 9 (M Hill) M Jarvis 7-10	T Williams	96

BETTING: 7-2 Florazi, 6-1 Sea Magic, 7-1 Naviasky, 8-1 Sense Of Wonder, Inchalong, 12-1 Lido, Burnt Yates, Penniless, Falkenberg, 14-1 others

1996: BROUGHTONS ERROR 7-11 J Quinn (16-1) W Musson 10 ran

2.10 CORN EXCHANGE CLAIMING STAKES
(£4,078: 1m 2f 60yd) (15 runners)

201	(14)	2245020	BILLY BUSHWACKER 17 (C,F,S) (T Chit) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-7	J Reid	92
202	(12)	0002060	*BREAK THE RULES 7 (CD,F,G,S) (J Nicholls) D Nicholls 5-9-4*	P Roberts (3)	*84*
203	(9)	1230000	MANFUL 12 (B,CD,F,S) (C Barber-Lomax) Miss L Perratt 5-9-4	N Kennedy	84
204	(15)	/0020-0	GONE FOR A BURTON 112 (D,F,S) (H Carrington) P Makin 7-9-3	J Fortune	71
205	(8)	-500060	TIME FOR ACTION 7 (F,G) (Mrs G Smith) M Tompkins 5-9-1	J Weaver	91
206	(13)	0450035	*ZIDAC 10 (D,F,G) (G Bradbrook) P Makin 5-9-1*	*G Duffield*	*86*
207	(10)	3406	JUGGLER 82 (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 3-8-13	L Dettori	77
208	(7)	0151101	BRIGHSTONE 10 (C,D,F,S) (R Green (Fine Paintings)) M Pipe 4-8-8	A McGlone	90
209	(5)	6444042	ORDAINED 18 (D,F) (P Boston Racing) E Alston 4-8-8	K Fallon	77
210	(3)	4/3660/	*KARTTIKEYA 694 (A Pesky) Mrs N Macauley 5-8-6*	*S Drowne*	–
211	(6)	5604030	MISS RIVIERA ROSE 37 (J Pearce) G Bravery 3-8-6	M J Kinane	65
212	(2)	150-050	PICKENS 5 (F) (Don Enrico Incisa) Don Enrico Incisa 5-8-6	Kim Tinkler	69
213	(4)	00	PRINCE OF BHUTAN 162 (Luqman Stud) R Akehurst 3-8-6	O Peslier	60
214	(1)	6431046	*FALLS O'MONESS 3 (S) (Pequot Cross House Ptnrs) K Burke 3-8-5*	*J F Egan*	*79*
215	(11)	06000	APPLETON'S FANCY 71 (Grosvenor Stud Co Ltd) A Bailey 3-8-4	D Wright	–

BETTING: 3-1 Brighstone, 6-1 Gone For A Burton, 7-1 Billy Bushwacker, 8-1 Break The Rules, Ordained, 10-1 Zidac, Juggler, 12-1 others

1996: BREAK THE RULES 4-9-4 K Darley (9-2) Mrs M Reveley 15 ran

2.40 DONCASTER WRITERS RATED HANDICAP
(£8,266: 5f) (22 runners)

301	(5)	4100010	TADEO 9 (D,F,G,S) (J Good) M Johnston 4-9-7	Dean McKeown	95
302	(16)	2-20240	AZIZZI 14 (F) (C Elsworth) D Elsworth 5-9-7	D O'Donohoe	93
303	(19)	3620002	CROWDED AVENUE 27 (D,F,G) (T Benfield) P Makin 5-9-4	K Fallon	92
304	(20)	0625050	INDIAN SPARK 9 (CD,F,S) (F Brady) J Goldie 3-9-2	D Griffiths (3)	84
305	(14)	0-10001	PERRYSTON VIEW 35 (V,CD,F,G,S) (Mrs J MacPherson) P Calver 5-8-13	L Dettori	109
306	(3)	3300040	ZIGGY'S DANCER 7 (D,F,G) (J Sarrell) E Alston 6-8-12	J F Egan	92
307	(21)	6011510	GAELIC STORM 9 (BF,D,F,G,S) (M C Racing Club) M Johnston 3-8-12	J Weaver	100
308	(1)	3201223	ANSELLMAN 9 (B,CD,F,G,S) (Ansells of Watford) J Berry 7-8-11	C Lowther (5)	104
309	(15)	6205100	RUDI'S PET 14 (B,D,G,S) (Broadgate Partnership) R Hannon 3-8-11	O Peslier	101
310	(11)	2303000	TWICE AS SHARP 9 (D,F,G) (Formula Twelve) P Harris 5-8-10	G Hind	96
311	(10)	2000100	WESTCOURT MAGIC 35 (D,F,G,S) (K Hodgson) M W Easterby 4-8-10	L Charnock	108
312	(7)	4432060	SURPRISE MISSION 9 (CD,F,G,S) (D Brennan) Mrs J Ramsden 5-8-9	J Fortune	98
313	(18)	-100601	CANOVAS HEART 17 (D,F,G,S) (M Osborne & Mrs J Wood) Bob Jones 8-8-9	N Day	107
314	(4)	0003046	REPERTORY 9 (D,G) (M Saunders) M Saunders 4-8-9	S Drowne	95
315	(2)	0010050	*LAGO DI VARANO 9 (V,CD,F,G,S) (PBT Group) R Whitaker 5-8-8*	*F Lynch*	*92*
316	(6)	-041450	FARAWAY LASS 28 (F,G) (J Rose) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-8	M J Kinane	93
317	(3)	24-1460	CADEAUX CHER 133 (C,F) (T Browne) B Hills 3-8-7	R Hills	96
318	(8)	5320100	SEA-DEER 84 (D,F,G,S) (M Fougere) C Dwyer 8-8-7	A McGlone	95
319	(22)	3200332	*SQUIRE CORRIE 8 (D,F,G,S) (Miss N Harrigan) G Oldroyd 5-8-7*	*P Fessey (3)*	112
320	(12)	5100010	SPENDER 27 (D,F,G) (Entrepreneurs) P Harris 8-8-7	G Duffield	95
321	(13)	6005106	LORD HIGH ADMIRAL 28 (V,CD,F,G,S) (Bob FC) M Heaton-Ellis 9-8-7	A Daly (3)	111
322	(17)	2005440	KIRA 8 (C,D,F,G) (J Wilson) J Eyre 7-8-7	R Winston (7)	106

Long handicap: Spender 8-5, Lord High Admiral 8-4, Kira 8-2

BETTING: 7-1 Crowded Avenue, 8-1 Perryston View, Gaelic Storm, 10-1 Ansellman, Twice As Sharp, Surprise Mission, Canovas Heart, 12-1 others

1996: SHANGHAI GIRL 3-8-7 C F McCabe (20-1) D Loder 13 ran

3.10 RACING POST CONDITIONS STAKES
C4

(£7,643: 7f) (6 runners)

401	(4)	26-1246	COOL EDGE 35 (C,D,F,G,S) (H Chan) M Tompkins 6-9-4	N Day	95
402	(6)	-140012	SWISS LAW 23 (D,F) (M al-Maktoum) S Bin Suroor 3-9-3	L Dettori	103
403	(2)	0111061	*JO MELL 23 (D,F,G,S) (C Newton Jnr Ltd) T Easterby 4-8-12*	*O Peslier*	*113*
404	(3)	/005-P0	PRINCE OF INDIA 22 (F,G) (Sir Gordon Brunton) Lord Huntingdon 5-8-12	M J Kinane	65
405	(1)	0501000	MIGRASINE 35 (V,F,G) (Sureak Potatoes) J Eyre 3-8-12	K Fallon	110
406	(5)	1-30266	ELEGANT WARNING 7 (C,F,G) (P Bearr) B Hills 3-8-5	R Hills	115

BETTING: 7-4 Jo Mell, 5-2 Swiss Law, 4-1 Cool Edge, 6-1 Elegant Warning, 8-1 Migrasine, 33-1 Prince Of India

1996: DIFFIDENT 4-9-12 K Darley (7-2) S bin Suroor 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Cool Edge 4¼l 6th to Wizard King in 7f Curragh group III stakes (good to soft). Swiss Law 2l 2nd to Intikhab in 1m Newmarket listed stakes (good). Jo Mell beat Rawee 2½l in 7f Ascot handicap (good to firm). Prince Of India 17l last of 15 to Al Muallim in 7f Newmarket handicap (good to firm). *Migrasine 6½l 15th to Wildwood Flower in 6f Ayr handicap (good to soft). Elegant Warning 2¾l 6th* to Kahal in 7f Newmarket group II stakes (good).

JO MELL has gone from strength to strength this season and can win again

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified) Horse's name Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield. C — course winner D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

3.40 RACING POST TROPHY
C4

(Group I: 2-Y-O: £94,096: 1m rnd) (8 runners)

501	(5)	216	CRAIGSTEEL 27 (G) (Sir David Wills) H Cecil 9-0	K Fallon	114
502	(6)	414	KILIMANJARO 27 (BF,D,S) (M Tabor) M Stoute 9-0	J Reid	115
503	(8)	3131	*LITTLE INDIAN 57 (G,S) (G Wright) S Woods 9-0*	*O Peslier*	118
504	(3)	3113	MOUNTAIN SONG 34 (G,S) (Eclipse Thoroughbreds) M Prescott 9-0	G Duffield	113
505	(7)	11	MUDEER 27 (F) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 9-0	L Dettori	110
506	(1)	11	MUTAMAM 31 (D,G,S) (H al-Maktoum) A Stewart 9-0	R Hills	98
507	(2)	3221	*QUIET ASSURANCE 23 (G) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-0*	G Carter	106
508	(4)	312131	SARATOGA SPRINGS 7 (D,G,S) (M Tabor) A P O'Brien (Ire) 9-0	M J Kinane	124

BETTING: 7-2 Kilimanjaro, 9-2 Mudeer, Saratoga Springs, 5-1 Mutamam, 6-1 Little Indian, 7-1 Craigsteel, 10-1 Mountain Song, 12-1 Quiet Assurance.

1996: *MEDAALY 9-0 G Hind (14-1) S bin Suroor 9 ran*

FORM FOCUS Kilimanjaro 1¼l 4th to Teapot Row in 1m Ascot group II stakes (good to firm) with Craigsteel (levels) 1½l 6th. Little Indian beat Tracking ½l in 2yo 7f Sandown group III stakes (good to soft). Mountain Song ¾l 3rd to King Of Kings in 1m Curragh group I stakes (good to soft). Mudeer beat Pegnitz 2l in 7f Ascot stakes (good to firm). Mutamam beat Golden Dice 1¼l in 7½f Chester stakes (good). Quiet Assurance beat Connoisseur Bay 1½l in 7f Newmarket maiden (good). Saratoga Springs beat Hanzanar 4l in 1m Curragh group III stakes (soft).

LITTLE INDIAN has shaped as though this trip will suit and can continue his progress

4.15 CHARLES SIDNEY MERCEDES BENZ DONCASTER STAKES
C4

(Listed race: 2-Y-O: £9,227: 6f) (10 runners)

601	(2)	02211	DETERRENT 24 (D,F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-9	L Dettori	103
602	(7)	31201	HUJOOM 35 (D,F,S) (Kuwait Racing Syndicate) J Dunlop 8-9	M J Kinane	107
603	(4)	31131	MONTE LEMOS 21 (D,F,G) (S De Zoete) R Charlton 8-9	J Reid	113
604	(10)	1165122	*SHAWDON 23 (D,F,G) (C Humphris) M Prescott 8-9*	G Duffield	117
605	(1)	1621	TOBLERSONG 3 (D,G,S) (Fairy Story Partnership) R Akehurst 8-9	J Weaver	105
606	(5)	1440245	YORKIES BOY 35 (F) (Mrs M Beddis) B McMahon 8-9	J Fortune	107
607	(9)	0221402	CLOUDBERRY 21 (B,F) (Mrs Denys Brackenridge) B Meehan 8-4	O Peslier	106
608	(8)	1424201	*DEMOLITION JO 9 (V,D,F,S) (J Pugh) P Evans 8-4*	J F Egan	*107*
609	(6)	221	IKHTEYAAR 32 (D,F) (H al-Maktoum) R Armstrong 8-4	R Hills	113
610	(3)	0411	SPECIAL TREAT 17 (B,D,F,G) (Cheveley Park Stud) D Loder 8-4	K Fallon	111

BETTING: 3-1 Deterrent, 6-1 Monte Lemos, Ikhteyaar, 7-1 Cloudberry, Special Treat, 8-1 Hujoom, Shawdon, 12-1 others

1996: ELEGANT WARNING 8-4 R Hills (9-4 fav) B Hills 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Deterrent beat Toblersong (levels) ¾l in 6f Salisbury stakes (good). *Hujoom beat Premium Pursuit ½l in 6f Ayr nursery (good to soft).* Monte Lemos beat Raise A King 1¼l in 6f Newmarket nursery (good to firm). Shawdon ½l 2nd to Bliss in 5f Newmarket nursery (good). Toblersong beat Denmer Croise ½l in 6f Yarmouth stakes (good). Cloudberry sh hd 2nd to Karakorum in 6f Curragh *listed stakes (good to soft). Demolition Jo beat The Downtown Fox 1l in 6f Newmarket nursery (good* to soft). Ikhteyaar beat Final Tango 3½l in 6f Nottingham maiden (good to firm). Special Treat beat Inchalong neck in 6f York nursery (good).

SHAWDON, narrowly beaten under top weight in a Newmarket nursery, can go one better

4.45 LADBROKE HANDICAP
C4

(£13,013: 1m 4f) (18 runners)

1	(2)	1010-34	GREENSTEAD 14 (F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 4-10-0	L Dettori	75
2	(6)	1101201	TESSAJOE 35 (D,F,G) (Riley Partnership) M Camacho 5-9-7	L Charnock	93
3	(13)	5100111	*CAPILANO PRINCESS 36 (C,F,G,S) (H Collis) D Haydn Jones 4-9-7*	*S Drowne*	*97*
4	(4)	04102	ZERPOUR 20 (BF,D,F) (H R H Aga Khan) L Cumani 3-9-2	J Reid	82
5	(15)	12-0040	OOPS PETTIE 42 (C,F) (Mrs D MacRae) Mrs J Cecil 4-9-2	J Weaver	84
6	(18)	1-60230	AL AZHAR 21 (C,F,G) (Al Muallim Partnership) I Balding 3-9-1	A McGlone	97
7	(16)	3/21-0	*FILMORE WEST 17 (F) (C Wright) D Arbuthnot 4-9-0*	*J Fortune*	–
8	(5)	0151246	VERIDIAN 15 (CD,F,S) (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 4-8-11	O Peslier	97
9	(14)	-223106	DOUBLE ALLEGED 9 (G) (Mrs N Huggins) M Johnston 3-8-9	Dean McKeown	98
10	(1)	0-01110	DEBUTANTE DAYS 35 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Braches) A Stewart 5-8-9	C Lowther (5)	96
11	(3)	53-0152	INVERMARK 34 (F) (Sir David Wills) J Fanshawe 3-8-9	–	90
12	(9)	4134402	PINCHINCHA 30 (C,F,S) (T Wells) D Morris 3-8-8	N Day	92
13	(11)	1220010	MCGILLYCUDDY REEKS 7 (F,G) (E Incisa) E Incisa 6-8-3	Kim Tinkler	100
14	(7)	02-016	TYROLEAN DREAM 12 (BF,G) (P Heath) M Tompkins 3-8-0	D Biggs	88
15	(12)	2200414	PEKAY 7 (F,S) (Mr & Mrs Holdcroft) M Johnston 4-8-0	J F Egan	97
16	(17)	012466	STAKIS CASINOS BOY 36 (F) (Stakis Casinos RC) M Johnston 3-7-13	N Adams	101
17	(8)	0005124	CIVIL LIBERTY 15 (F) (Midcourts) G Lewis 4-7-10	P Fessey (3)	97
18	(10)	0100452	HILL FARM BLUES 11 (F,G) (D Newton) W M Brisbourne 4-7-10	Iona Wands (5)	98

Long handicap: Civil Liberty 7-9, Hill Farm Blues 7-8

BETTING: 9-2 Zerpour, 7-1 Invermark, 8-1 Capilano Princess, Veridian, 10-1 Al Azhar, Pinchincha, 12-1 Greenstead, Tessajoe, 14-1 others

1996: HENRY ISLAND 3-9-2 G Milligan (14-1) G Wragg 19 ran

FORM FOCUS Greenstead 16l 4th to Akezal in 1½m Ascot handicap (heavy). Tessajoe beat Double Eight 1l in 1½m Catterick handicap (good to firm). Capilano Princess beat Rebel County ½l in 1¼m Ayr *handicap (good to soft). Zerpour ½l 2nd to Mithali in 1¼m Leicester stakes (good to firm).* Oops Pettie 25l 16th to Infatuation in 1¼m handicap here (good to firm). Al Azhar 10l 18th to Pasternak in 1m1f Newmarket handicap (good to firm). Veridian 1¾l 6th to Taunt in 1½m Ascot handicap (heavy) with Double Alleged (3lb better off) 28l 11th. Double Alleged 6¾l 6th to Ihtiyati in 1½m Newmarket handicap (good). *Debutante Days 25l 7th to Darapour in 1m5f Newbury handicap (good to firm).* Invermark 3½l 2nd to Largesse in 1½m Haydock handicap (good). Pinchincha ¾l 2nd to Eshtiaal in 1½m Pontefract handicap (good to firm). Tyrolean Dream 8l 6th to Secret Ballot in 1½m Leicester handicap (soft). Pekay 3l 4th to Ganga in 1¼m Redcar handicap (good) with *McGillycuddy Reeks (levels) 6l 8th. Civil Liberty 4¾l 4th to Dauphin in 1½m Ascot amateurs* handicap (heavy). Hill Farm Blues 4l 2nd to Wahiba Sands in 1m5f Ayr handicap (soft).

ZERPOUR showed smart form over an inadequate trip last time and is hard to oppose

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
R Armstrong	11	42	26.2	L Dettori	38	222	17.1
S bin Suroor	8	31	25.8	R Hills	14	95	14.7
H Cecil	25	104	24.0	K Fallon	32	231	13.9
G Wragg	12	52	23.1	G Hind	8	72	11.1
J Gosden	31	149	20.8	G Carter	11	103	10.7
J Dunlop	29	150	19.3	J Fortune	16	154	10.4

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

1.30 Mihnah
2.00 Another Time
3.10 Kaliana
3.40 Distant Mirage
4.10 Once More For Luck
4.40 Perfect Harmony
5.10 Respond

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

1.30 FURLONG CLUB RADLEY STAKES
BBC1

(Listed race: 2-Y-O: £10,495: 7f 64yd) (13 runners)

1	(2)	0016	AMABEL 21 (CD,S) (G Strawbridge) I Balding 8-11	Martin Dwyer	106
2	(6)	010	ADMIRE 44 (S) (Miss G Kelleway) G Kelleway 8-8	R Ffrench	97
3	(5)	21	ARCTIC AIR 37 (D,S) (T Scotborn) E Weymes 8-8	S Sanders	78
4	(8)	1	BRISTOL CHANNEL 46 (F) (K Abdulla) B Hills 8-8	M Hills	99
5	(11)	31	COURT LANE 12 (S) (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder 8-8	*R Cochrane*	99
6	(10)	0110	FFESTINIOG 63 (F,S) (Elite Racing Club) P Cole 8-8	T Quinn	113
7	(4)	214	FRIENDLY WARNING 31 (D,G) (Allez France Ptns) J Banks 8-8	J Quinn	99+
8	(3)	13	*LEGGERA 45 (BF,D,F) (Mrs H Focke) J Dunlop 8-8*	T Sprake	104
9	(1)	0	MAYLAN 15 (Spanish Connection) D Hyde 8-8	R Havlin	–
10	(12)		MIDSUMMER ROMANCE (T Waddington) B Meehan 8-8	M Tebbutt	–
11	(7)	421	MIHNAH 17 (S) (H al-Maktoum) D Morley 8-8	J Carroll	98
12	(9)	51	*RED LEGGINGS 18 (D,F) (Mrs C Smith) J Hills 8-8*	A Clark	100
13	(13)	12	SWING SISTER 11 (G) (Lady Bamford) P R Webber 8-8	Dane O'Neill	100

BETTING: 7-2 Mihnah, 4-1 Court Lane, 5-1 Bristol Channel, 7-1 Leggera, 8-1 Amabel, Arctic Air, 10-1 Friendly Warning, 12-1 others

1996: BOOJUM 8-8 A Clark (10-1) B Hills 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Amabel 9¾l 6th to Name Of Love in 7f Newmarket listed stakes (good to firm). Arctic Air beat Set Trail 1¼l in 7f Ayr maiden (good to soft). *Bristol Channel beat Rambling Rose ½l in 1m Leicester* maiden (good to firm). Court Lane beat Esse 9l in 6f Ayr maiden (soft). Friendly Warning 2¾l 4th to Soeur Ti in 7f Maisons-Laffitte stakes (good). Leggera 5¼l 3rd to Exclusive in 7f Kempton stakes (good). Mihnah beat Love Academy 5l in 6f York maiden (soft). Red Leggings beat Spree Rose 3l *in 7f Warwick maiden (good to firm). Swing Sister ½l 2nd to Social Charter in 7f Leicester stakes* (good to soft).

MIHNAH's form has been boosted by Love Academy and her stable is in fine form

2.00 RECRUIT EMPLOYMENT SERVICES RATED HANDICAP
BBC1

(£8,484: 1m 1f) (15 runners)

1	(1)	3006035	WILCUMA 14 (B,CD,F,G,S) (T Warner) P Makin 6-9-7	A Clark	91
2	(7)	6010511	MITHALI 20 (F,S) (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 4-9-2	M Hills	108
3	(2)	0012400	ANOTHER TIME 14 (CD,F,G) (D Sullivan) S Woods 5-8-13	Martin Dwyer	99
4	(4)	6-50120	*GRIEF 35 (BF,S) (M Balcomb) D Elsworth 4-8-13*	*R Ffrench (3)*	*101*
5	(10)	602401	STRAZO 22 (F,S) (E Relief) Lady Herries 4-8-13	R Cochrane	110
6	(13)	0061240	CONCER UN 22 (F,G,S) (Miss L Ward) S C Williams 5-8-12	J Quinn	99
7	(5)	031031	RIGHT WING 12 (S) (Earl Cadogan) W Hern 3-8-12	T Sprake	99
8	(9)	0-41060	WELTON ARSENAL 107 (F,G) *(Business Forms) K Bishop 5-8-11*	Paul Eddery	108
9	(14)	0-52	CHAI-YO 15 (N Viney) J Old 7-8-11	S Sanders	94
10	(12)	1233	ZALITZINE 44 (G) (M al-Maktoum) M Stoute 3-8-8	M Fenton	96
11	(3)	04-4423	CONSORT 9 (F) (Mrs S Whitehead) Mrs A Perrett 4-8-7	C Rutter	106
12	(15)	412420-	*CRAZY CHIEF 421 (BF,F) (D Simpson) P Cole 4-8-7*	*T Quinn*	–
13	(11)	103106	PRINCE OF DENIAL 7 (C,D,F,G) (J Gullan) D Arbuthnot 3-8-6	S Whitworth	103
14	(8)	21-0016	POLAR FLIGHT 185 (G,S) (Middleham Ptns) M Johnston 3-8-6	J Carroll	108
15	(6)	2503024	RAPIER 22 (F) (Mrs A Kane) R Hannon 3-8-4	Dane O'Neill	106

Long handicap: Consort 8-5, Crazy Chief 8-3.

BETTING: 5-1 Strazo, 7-1 Mithali, Consort, 8-1 Right Wing, Zalitzine, Prince of Denial, 10-1 Grief, Concer Un, 12-1 others.

1996: WILCUMA 5-9-7 A Clark (5-1) P Makin 12 ran

FORM FOCUS Mithali beat Zerpour ½l in 1¼m Leicester stakes (good to firm). Strazo beat Midyan Call 2l in 1m Newmarket stakes (good to firm) with Rapier (6lb better off) 6¾l 4th. Concer Un 4¾l 7th to Al Muallim in 7f Newmarket handicap (good to firm). Right Wing beat The Wild Widow 1¾l in 1m Ayr stakes (soft). Chai-Yo 2l 2nd to Ghalib in 1m Ascot stakes (heavy). Zalitzine 5¼l 3rd to Bina Gardens in 1¼m Chepstow stakes (good). Consort ½l 3rd to Jay-Owe-Two in 1m Newmarket *handicap (good to soft). Prince Of Denial 6l 6th to Gulf Shaadi in 1m Newmarket handicap (good).*

RIGHT WING has come to himself of late and this looks within his compass

2.30 PERPETUAL ST SIMON STAKES
BBC1

(Group III: £21,300: 1m 4f 5yd) (11 runners)

1	(10)	1-40120	*SALMON LADDER 28 (CD,F,G,S) (M Arbib) P Cole 5-9-3*	*T Quinn*	*83*
2	(5)	230118	BUSY FLIGHT 20 (CD,F,G) (S Wingfield Digby) B Hills 4-9-0	M Hills	110
3	(2)	3056122	KUTTA 56 (BF,C,D,F,G,S) (H al-Maktoum) R Armstrong 5-9-0	A Clark	103
4	(9)	23-0530	LORD JIM 116 (V,D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Thomas) Lord Huntingdon 5-9-0	Dane O'Neill	85
5	(4)	366423	*PROPER BLUE 8 (F,G,S) (M Legge) T Mills 4-9-0*	S Sanders	101
6	(1)	122/14-	SUPLIZI 525 (D,F,G) (T Price) P Bowen 6-9-0	M Fenton	–
7	(11)	120401	TAUFAN'S MELODY 27 (D,F,G,S) (All At Sea) Lady Herries 6-9-0	R Cochrane	103
8	(7)	1561345	BUDDY MARVEL 46 (D,S) J McLoughlin (Ire) 3-8-7	N McCullagh	96
9	(3)	3-21202	*HALTARRA 34 (BF,G) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 3-8-7*	*J Carroll*	111
10	(8)	41216	PENTAD 21 (D,G) (K Abdulla) R Charlton 3-8-7	T Sprake	100
11	(6)	1215	KALIANA 41 (D,G,S) (H R H Aga Khan) L Cumani 3-8-4	R Ffrench	106

BETTING: 3-1 Busy Flight, 4-1 Kaliana, 5-1 Kutta, 13-2 Haltarra, 7-1 Salmon Ladder, 8-1 Taufan's Melody, 10-1 Pentad, 12-1 others.

1996: SALMON LADDER 4-9-0 T Quinn (11-2) P Cole 12 ran

FORM FOCUS Salmon Ladder 39l 7th to Kingfisher Mill in 1½m Ascot group III stakes (good). Busy Flight 13l 10th to Peintre Celebre in 1½m Prix l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp (good to firm). Kutta 10l 2nd to Further Flight in 1m5f Chester handicap (soft). Proper Blue 4½l 3rd to Fahris in 1m1f Newmarket listed stakes (good to soft). Taufan's Melody placed 2nd after beating Ridaiyma ¾l in 1½m Ascot handicap (good to firm). Buddy Marvel 10l 5th to Aliya in 1½m Galway listed stakes (good to soft). Haltarra neck 2nd to Barnum Sands in 1¼m Kempton stakes (good). Pentad 7¾l 6th to Three Cheers in 1m7f Longchamp group III (good). Kaliana 3¼l 5th to Queen Maud in 1½m Longchamp group I (soft).

BUSY FLIGHT thrives during the autumn and can gain his biggest prize

3.00 STAFFORD KNIGHT CONDITIONS STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,502: 1m) (5 runners)

1	(3)	01	KOMISTAR 18 (F) (Class Act) P Harris 9-0	A Clark	107
2	(5)	05	ALAZAN 98 (Spanish Connection) D Hyde 8-11	S Sanders	47
3	(2)	2	DISTANT MIRAGE 37 (BF) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11	R Havlin (3)	104
4	(4)		EVANDER (A Speelman) P Cole 8-8	T Quinn	–
5	(1)		STINGRAY (M J Pilkington) M Johnston 8-8	M Hills	–

BETTING: 5-6 Distant Mirage, 3-1 Komistar, 9-2 Evander, 11-2 Stingray, 33-1 Alazan

1996: TEMPTING PROSPECT 8-6 D Harrison (8-1) Lord Huntingdon 7 ran

3.30 JOHN COALES 70TH BIRTHDAY CLAIMING STAKES
(£3,756: 1m 4f 5yd) (9 runners)

1	(3)	24-0301	RAISE A PRINCE 112 (S) (Dr F Chao) S Woods 4-9-3	S Sanders	90
2	(5)		CLONOE (McKernan/O'Neill) R Ingram 3-8-11	R Perham	–
3	(9)	0-0	FUNCHAL WAY 208 (M Rowe) B Millman 5-8-11	T Sprake	–
4	(8)	0090400	*STORY LINE 15 (S) (Story Line Partnership) D Arbuthnot 4-8-11*	*R Ffrench (3)*	125
5	(2)	2044340	AT LIBERTY 23 (D,F,G) (B Adams) R Hannon 5-8-10	Dane O'Neill	85
6	(1)	3004545	MIDYAN BLUE 7 (V,CD,G,S) (K Palmer) J Eustace 7-8-10	R Cochrane	83
7	(7)	1-0101	ONCE MORE FOR LUCK 12 (D,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-8-10	A Culhane	75
8	(4)	2414005	*PROTOCOL 68 (F) (Highclere Thoroughbreds) J Hills 3-8-5*	T Quinn	91
9	(6)	5243504	MOUNTAINEER 9 (P Davis) M Bell 3-8-3	M Fenton	73

BETTING: 3-1 Once More For Luck, 7-2 Midyan Blue, Story Line, Raise A Prince, 6-1 Protocol, 8-1 others

1996: ROYAL DIVERSION 3-8-6 T Sprake (6-1) J Dunlop 16 ran

4.00 DICK DAWSON NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £5,345: 6f 8yd) (19 runners)

1	(12)	1225034	SMOOTH SAILING 14 (B,S) (A Parrish) K McAuliffe 9-7	A Culhane	99
2	(17)	012236	TEMPUS FUGIT 10 (G) (Keepers) B Millman 9-5	M Fenton	100
3	(4)	21500	HILL MAGIC 34 (D,F) (M Jackson Bloodstock) D Elsworth 9-4	*R Ffrench (3)*	*94*
4	(19)	01	ROBIN GOODFELLOW 9 (D,S) (M Gough) P Walwyn 9-3	J Carroll	98
5	(2)	6364236	BEWARE 11 (Wyck Hall Stud) R Armstrong 9-1	A Clark	95
6	(11)	010	POLY BLUE 28 (CD,F) (Steel & Roll Convertors) G Kelleway 8-13	A Whelan (3)	97
7	(9)	025	WOLFHUNT 17 (Mrs E Quealy) P Makin 8-13	S Sanders	90
8	(8)	2424022	THE BOY JOHN 4 (J B R Leisure Ltd) R Hannon 8-13	W J O'Connor	98
9	(18)	U024026	KENNET 16 (Miss M Fraser) P Cundell 8-11	R Perham	98
10	(6)	66002	MOONSTONE 19 (Mrs D Brazier) A Jarvis 8-8	T Quinn	92
11	(14)	2204300	WHO NOSE 15 (B,D,F,G) (Abbott Racing) B Meehan 8-8	G Hannon (7)	98
12	(5)	34503	MOHAWK 22 (J Darby) J Dunlop 8-5	Paul Eddery	95
13	(13)	0100401	TRUTH TELLER 24 (D,F) (J Smith) R Hannon 8-4	Dane O'Neill	86
14	(7)	2300	PERFECT HARMONY 11 (N Attenborough) B Meehan 8-1	C Rutter	104
15	(10)	054040	FROLICKING 20 (D Steil) J Dunlop 8-1	*T Sprake*	92
16	(3)	550	JEWEL 17 (Lady Tennant) R Hannon 7-11	J Quinn	94
17	(16)	30000	TULLICH REFRAIN 5 (Sun Punters) W Muir 7-10	Martin Dwyer	105
18	(15)	444006	ELLEYSANTA 25 (Advanced Marketing) A Newcombe 7-10	F Norton	91
19	(1)	3110000	FAST FRANC 8 (D,S) (J Lovitt) S C Williams 7-10	*D Williams (7)*	*101*

BETTING: 6-1 Mohawk, 7-1 Robin Goodfellow, 8-1 Moonstone, 10-1 Smooth Sailing, Poly Blue, 12-1 others

1996: YORKIE GEORGE 9-3 O Urbina (4-1 fav) L Cumani 13 ran

4.30 LEVY BOARD NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £3,649: 7f 64yd) (14 runners)

1	(9)	U120	*BETTRON 31 (D,F) (R Gander) R Hannon 9-7*	Dane O'Neill	92
2	(3)	3120	ANITA AT DAWN 35 (S) (Merthyr Motor Auctions) B Palling 9-2	T Sprake	92
3	(10)	084	NIGHT VIGIL 117 (S Ali) B Hills 8-13	M Hills	83
4	(5)	3464	TAJAIL 12 (H al-Maktoum) W Hern 8-12	Paul Eddery	92
5	(11)	*602U44*	*BOUND TO PLEASE 21 (Mrs A Shelton) P Makin 8-10*	S Sanders	100
6	(14)	083300	RESPOND 8 (C Pennick) G L Moore 8-9	A Clark	95
7	(8)	564	ACEBO LYONS 38 (T Lyons II) A Jarvis 8-8	T Quinn	84
8	(6)	0005	ARCTIC STAR 24 (Kingsdown Racing) M Channon 8-5	R Perham	79
9	(7)	000	PRIORS MOOR 24 (Mrs L Alexander) R Armstrong 8-4	F Norton	92
10	(2)	4330603	FIRE GODDESS 4 (Mrs V Goodman) J S Moore 8-4	M Fenton	98
11	(4)	005000	SHANNON'S SECRET 31 (B) (Mrs S Tucker) B Meehan 8-1	C Rutter	97
12	(12)	200	FLYING BOLD 9 (Mrs H Levy) W Muir 8-0	Martin Dwyer	80
13	(1)	4554001	MARI-ELA 9 (D,S) (J Gate) J Arnold 7-12	R Ffrench (3)	88
14	(13)	5056	SAMPOWER LADY 34 (Sampower Racing Club) W Musson 7-11	J Quinn	90

BETTING: 5-1 Bettron, 6-1 Night Vigil, Anita At Dawn, Tajail, Bound To Please, Fire Goddess, 9-1 others.

1996: KAISER KACHE 9-0 O Urbina (20-1) K McAuliffe 19 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs.	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Chapple-Hyam	38	174	21.8	T Quinn	33	281	11.7
S Woods	3	14	21.4	M Hills	24	207	11.6
L Cumani	13	61	21.3	A Whelan	3	28	10.7
S bin Suroor	3	15	20.0	R Cochrane	16	158	10.1
G Kelleway	7	36	19.4	S Sanders	9	90	10.0

Last chance

BRITAIN has a final chance tomorrow to avoid a whitewash in this season's major overseas classics. Double Eclipse, running his last race, Bahamian Knight, Camporese, Further Flight, Grey Shot and Snow Princess represent this country against Ireland's Oscar Schindler in the Prix Royal-Oak (French St Leger) at Longchamp.

If all six are beaten it will be the first time since the early Sixties that Britain has failed to land a classic in Ireland or France.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Leicester (first race, 1.30), Lingfield Park (AW, 1.50), Towcester (1.40).

TUESDAY: Leicester (1.30), Redcar (1.05), Cheltenham (1.40).

WEDNESDAY: Yarmouth (1.20), Cheltenham (1.10), Fontwell Park (1.30)

THURSDAY: Nottingham (1.30), Sedgefield (1.20), Stratford (1.40).

FRIDAY: Newmarket (C4, 12.50), Bangor (1.10), Wetherby (1.35).

SATURDAY: Newmarket (C4, 1.00), Ascot (BBC, 12.50), Wetherby (C4, 12.40), Kelso (12.45), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00).

Flat meetings in bold

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NEWBURY

Whitaker striding for perfection

It is small wonder that dashing, devil-may-care types are so few when the tiniest errors are so costly

SIMON BARNES

Talking horse

Half a million quid is not a sensible sum of money. The thought of holding it in your hands — worse, of having one hand on the cheque — would bring out the compulsive talker in most of us. But John Whitaker has never subscribed to the view that fancy phrases make a horse jump higher. "He's a g'doss."

This weekend, Whitaker is in Monterrey, taking part in the third leg of an event called the Pulsar Challenge. He has already won one leg: if he wins this weekend, the rolling prize-money system means that he will get both hands on the aforementioned half-million. But the horse, Grannusch, might ever-so-gently caress a bar with a trailing hoof and cause the pole — very lightweight and shiftable these days — to roll in its supporting cups — very shallow and eager to shed their poles these days — and plop apologetically to the ground.

The sound of falling timber behind your back is the death-knell in cricket. In showjumping, it is worse, the same sound of failure magnified a thousand times. For me, at least, it has never truly mattered. But if Whitaker hears that sound this weekend, it will mean goodbye half-million — an extreme example of the professional showjumper's life: the tiniest of errors followed by the greatest of punishments. It is hardly surprising that you don't get dashing, devil-may-care types in showjumping anymore.

Now I am going to reveal a secret, to let out one of the great hidden truths of the entire horsey freemasonry. *It is not hard to be an adequate showjumper.* Not if you can ride and you have a g'doss, anyway. It is very hard indeed to be a half-decent dressage rider, but really not to hard to showjump passably well. There is a point when it suddenly becomes twice as difficult, and that is 3ft 6in. From that point, the difficulty starts to double and double again. Bravery and balance will only get you to about four feet. You need real horsemanship after *that*. Real, deep and *precise* horsemanship.

It is called, in the jargon, "seeing a stride". At the low level, this is really (though don't tell anybody I said so) something that the horse does. That is to say, the horse works out where to take off for himself. At a higher level, seeing a stride is what the rider does. This is because of a strange, unappreciated fact about horses. They can't see the jump.

Horses are flight animals and depend on their panoramic vision to spot the dangers. This comes at a price: they have blind spots, the biggest just in front of them. Once they are in front of a jump, they literally cannot see it. At the low level of the jumping game, they rely on the memory of the fence, from information obtained from the sighting a couple of strides before they actually reach it. At the elite level, the horse learns to depend on the instructions of the rider and, therefore, must be taught to trust. This can only come from a rider's perfect trustworthiness.

Every stride is calculated. The horse takes off at the point his rider has decided. And not a pole is touched — unless the rider has got it wrong, or failed to communicate clearly, or the horse has failed to understand, or if the horse has been, simply, careless. Dropped a backleg. Sound of falling timber. Goodbye half-million.

Of course a horse must be athletic and brave and trusting. They all are, too, in every elite discipline. But to be a good showjumper, a horse needs to possess the gift of care. To be better than good, he needs a level of care that borders on finickiness: he must have a strange distaste for letting any one of those lightweight little poles come into contact with his nice clean legs.

You can wallop a cross-country fence, and it won't fall down. It will not punish the rider, not if the horse gets over, but it will punish the horse. Hitting a solid fence at speed hurts. But a showjumping fence is a soft, forgiving thing. Care. "You can't school it into a horse," Whitaker said. "Horses reach a good level in showjumping because they are naturally careful."

Whitaker is a deceptive man. The man-of-few-words persona is marrow-deep, but it is not surliness, defensiveness or hostility — just his way. A pity, then, that it makes him come across as an unreconstructed hardcase, a machine for winning: unsympathetic, ruthless to his horses, unforgiving. It comes as a surprise, though it shouldn't, to hear him talk of the most important attribute for a good showjumper. "Being a good loser is the hardest, most important thing," he said. "You lose more than you win, and you mustn't show the horse that you're upset. You often see it: riders getting upset with their horses after they've had a fence down. Makes it worse. The horse doesn't know what he's done wrong."

It is ironic that a decline of interest in showjumping in this country — the sport is booming in Europe — has coincided with the domination by perhaps the finest practitioner of the sport that the country has produced. Whitaker suffers a little from the Pete Sampras Syndrome: mere excellence is not enough, at least not for the floating voters of sport. They want a theatrical nature as well. And at least with Sampras, the excellence is obvious. With Whitaker, even more than with most showjumpers, the excellence is hardly visible.

At the highest level of riding, you are seeking to put in the correction before the error has occurred. Whitaker, gifted with giving hands and quiet manner, is one of the great riders who do absolutely nothing, or seem to. The correction came six strides before the fence, and it was too slight for anybody to notice, except the horse.

Showjumping is an increasingly precise and technical sport, more so than dressage, in a wat. Horses are not better than in the past, but there are far more very good ones. The sport is competitive as never before. To gain some kind of edge, and to maintain it, from one good horse to the next to the next, as Whitaker has done with Ryan's Son, Milton, and now Grannusch, takes something extraordinary.

Oh yes, to win at showjumping, you need a g'doss. And you need one hell of a horseman, too. But to stay there, year after year, you need something beyond that. And you can guess at what this might be, from the laconic hints Whitaker is perfectly prepared to drop. You must know — even when there is a half a million quid at stake — when, and above all how, to forgive.

JOHN ANGERSON / GUZELIAN

Whitaker is the master of all he surveys as he shows the gentle side of his nature that has helped to keep him firmly in the forefront of the showjumping world

THUNDERER

1.50 Sandabar. 2.20 He's Got Wings. 2.50 Pentlands Flyer. 3.20 Four From Home. 3.55 Lord Of The West. 4.25 Supertop. 5.00 Valhalla.

GOING: FIRM (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

1.50 GREAT GABLE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,416: 2m 1f) (8 runners)

1	3122	SILVERDALE LAD 28 (BF,D,G) K Hogg 6-11-5	M Foster
2	PPP/	GROG 12F B Mactaggart 8-10-12	B Storey
3	434-	LORD OF THE LOCH 164 L Lungo 6-10-12	R Supple
4	00-6	RUN FOR THE MILL 25 J Jefferson 5-10-12	A K Smith (7)
5		SPANISH VERDICT 7F D Smith 10-10-12	A Thornton
6	/004	SPIDERS DELIGHT 35 T Cuthbert 9-10-12	K Johnson
7	2	SANDABAR 31 J Howard Johnson 4-10-11	P Carberry
8	ROP/	ELISSA 1447 G Kelly 11-10-7	P Midgley (5)

4-5 Sandabar, 4-1 Silverdale Lad, 6-1 Spanish Verdict, 7-4 Lord of The Loch, 14-1 Spiders Delight, 20-1 Run For The Mill, 33-1 Grog, 50-1 Elissa.

2.20 SADDLEBACK NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,458: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1	-351	DONT FORGET CURTIS 14 (G) Mrs K Lamb 5-11-5	Miss S Lamb (7)
2	30-2	JENNIE'S PROSPECT 14 J J O'Neill 6-10-12	R McGrath (5)
3	2	HE'S GOT WINGS 43 M Pell 4-10-11	D Bentley
4	3F-3	RECRUITMENT 20 J Turner 4-10-11	R Supple
5	6	WINDTHROP 54 Miss L Russell 4-10-11	A Thornton
6	0	POWDER PRIM 11 Mrs S Smith 6-10-7	R Wilkinson (5)

5-4 He's Got Wings, 7-4 Jinnie's Prospect, 6-1 Dont Forget Curtis, 8-1 Recruitment, 14-1 Powder Prim, 20-1 Windthrop.

2.50 MALCOLM GALLETLY 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION NOVICES CHASE (£3,534: 2m 4f) (7)

1	12-1	PENTLANDS FLYER 31 (D,F,G) J Howard Johnson 6-11-11	P Carberry
2	P-24	ANOTHER MEADOW 15 J Dixon 9-11-5	D Parker
3	33-P	BANNER YEAR 133 T Carr 6-11-5	A Dobbin
4	5-36	JAUNTY GENERAL 31 C Parker 6-11-5	R Supple
5	-323	WELL APPOINTED 15 (BF,F,G) B Mactaggart 8-11-5	B Storey
6	P-43	SUPER GUY 14 J Barclay 5-11-3	A Thornton
7	/F0-	GAME POINT 208 D Lamb 8-11-0	J Burke

1-2 Pentlands Flyer, 7-2 Well Appointed, 13-2 Jaunty General, 12-1 Super Guy, 16-1 Banner Year, 20-1 Another Meadow, 33-1 Game Point.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Market Rasen: 2.15 Opera Fan, Princely Affair. Doncaster: 4.15 Cloudberry.

3.20 LADBROKES LUCKY CHOICE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,234: 3m 110yd) (5)

1	F-41	GALE AHEAD 22 (D,F,G) G M Moore 7-11-10	B Storey
2	16-5	KINDA GROOVY 25 (B,F,G) I Park 8-11-2	N Smith
3	-222	FOUR FROM HOME 15 J J O'Neill 5-10-12	P Carberry
4	6-25	ROYAL CIRCUS 11 (F,G) P Hiatt 8-10-11	A Dobbin
5	00P1	BERNERA 22 (F) J Mackie 5-10-10	R Supple

2-1 Four From Home, 9-4 Gale Ahead, 5-1 Royal Circus, Bernera, 6-1 Kinda Groovy.

3.55 CUMBRIAN HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,557: 3m) (3)

1	3141	FIVELEIGH BUILDS 15 (CD,F,G,S) Miss L Russell 10-12-0	A Thornton
2	P2F-	LORD OF THE WEST 228 (D,F,G,S) J J O'Neill 8-11-1	P Carberry
3	4P/2	BOARDING SCHOOL 15 (B,F,G,S) C Parker 10-10-0	D Parker

11-10 Lord Of The West, 5-4 Fiveleigh Builds, 4-1 Boarding School.

4.25 OLD MAN OF CONISTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,689: 2m 1f) (6)

1	431-	DOWN THE FELL 203 (D,F,G,S) J Howard Johnson 8-11-13	P Carberry
2	23-1	SUPERTOP 7 (F,G) L Lungo 9-11-10	W Dowling (7)
3	1-21	COTTAGE PRINCE 15 (CD,F,G) J J Quinn 4-10-7	G Hogan (3)
4	3343	HIGHLAND WAY 7 (F,G) M Todhunter 9-10-0	C McCormack (7)
5	-321	MONIOS 22 (F) G M Moore 6-10-0	T Hogg (7)
6	PP/5	DARK FOUNTAIN 35 (D,F) J Dixon 10-10-0	B Storey

7-4 Down The Fell, 5-2 Cottage Prince, 3-1 Supertop, 7-1 Highland Way, 10-1 Monios, 50-1 Dark Fountain.

5.00 GREAT DODD STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,035: 2m 1f) (6)

1	31-	VALHALLA 175 (G) M Todhunter 4-11-10	C McCormack (7)
2	5	MR KELBURNE 15 J Jefferson 5-11-4	E Callaghan (3)
3		TUZO K Hogg 5-11-4	B Grattan (5)
4		SLIP AWAY J J O'Neill 4-11-3	R McGrath (5)
5		MILL BEE W Reed 4-10-12	S Melrose (7)
6		SOTATTIE Mrs S Smith 4-10-12	R Wilkinson (5)

1-2 Valhalla, 4-1 Sotattie, 10-1 Slip Away, Mr Kelburne, 20-1 Tuzo, 33-1 Mill Bee.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Jefferson, 15 winners from 56 runners, 26.8%; J Howard Johnson, 10 from 60, 16.7%; Mrs S Smith, 10 from 71, 14.1%; L Lungo, 12 from 87, 13.8%; C Parker, 15 from 112, 13.4%; B Mactaggart, 5 from 39, 12.8%.

JOCKEYS: P Carberry, 6 winners from 27 rides, 22.2%; A Dobbin, 24 from 132, 18.2%; D Bentley, 7 from 47, 14.9%; J Burke, 7 from 49, 14.3%; R Guest, 9 from 63, 14.3%; M Foster, 5 from 36, 13.9%.

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER

2.15 John Tufty. 2.45 Cheryl's Lad. 3.15 Couchant. 3.50 James Pigg. 4.20 Traceability. 4.50 Galen. 5.20 Peacemaker.

GOING: GOOD SIS

2.15 CALDERPRINT SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,828: 2m 1f 110yd) (8 runners)

1	5/02	XAIPETE 31 (D,F) N Mason 5-11-13	R Guest
2	4166	OPERA FAN 34 (V,G,S) K Morgan 5-11-5	P Morris (5)
3	-420	PRINCELY AFFAIR 7 (B,BF) J Bradley 4-11-3	R Johnson
4	-224	JOHN TUFTY 38 (G) J Pearce 6-10-12	R Dunwoody
5	000-	AFRICAN SUN 3F M Chapman 4-10-5	W Worthington
6	63P/	LOGIE 514F N Babbage 5-10-0	W Marston
7	300-	OAKBURY 8F Miss L Siddall 5-10-0	T Siddall (7)
8	0030	PORT VALENSKA 17 (B) J A Harris 4-10-0	S Taylor (5)

2-1 John Tufty, 7-2 Opera Fan, 9-2 Xaipete, 6-1 Princely Affair, 7-1 others.

2.45 UK HYGIENE FOR SMOKE FILTRATION NOVICES CHASE (£4,133: 2m 1f 110yd) (6)

1	3-15	CHERYL'S LAD 7 (BF,CD,F,G,S) D Nicholson 7-11-8	R Johnson
2	2-21	RANGITIKEI 17 (D,G,S) C Mann 6-11-8	R Dunwoody
3	013-	HOH WARRIOR 273 (G,S) C Brooks 6-11-2	G Bradley
4	52P-	ROYAL CRIMSON 238 (F) M Hammond 6-11-2	R Garritty
5	00-3	TOM BRODIE 30 (BF,F,G) J Howard Johnson 7-11-2	A P McCoy
6	100-	SHINING EDGE 203 (F,G) T Easterby 5-11-1	L Wyer

9-4 Hoh Warrior, 7-2 Rangitikei, 4-1 Tom Brodie, 9-2 Cheryl's Lad, 5-1 Shining Edge, 16-1 Royal Crimson.

3.15 KAREN & ALAN STONE WEDDING DAY HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,085: 3m) (5)

1	1111	COUCHANT 60 (C,D,F,G) M Pipe 6-12-0	A P McCoy
2	33P4	SMITH TOO 16 (D,F,G) Mrs J Pitman 9-11-0	R Farrant
3	3P-1	COPPER COIL 19 (D,G,S) R Buckler 7-10-0	B Powell
4	142-	PONTEVEDRA 183 (BF,G) K Morgan 4-10-0	A S Smith
5	3-4P	NOCATCHIM 11F (V,F,G,S) K Morgan 8-10-0	P Morris (5)

5-4 Couchant, 2-1 Copper Coil, 4-1 Smith Too, 10-1 Pontevedra, 20-1 Nocatchim.

3.50 TOTE HANDICAP CHASE (£4,323: 3m 1f) (5)

1	214/	HERMES HARVEST 511 (D,F) D Williams 9-11-11	Mr S Durack (7)
2	24-6	JAMES PIGG 36 (D,F,G,S) M Pipe 10-11-4	A P McCoy
3	36-2	PIMS GUNNER 15 (D,F,G,S) M Hammond 9-10-13	R Garritty
4	1F-F	RHOSSILI BAY 22 (G,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 9-10-10	G Lee (3)
5	11-1	HIGHBEATH 28 (C,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-8	P Niven

2-1 Highbeath, 5-2 Rhossili Bay, 7-2 Pims Gunner, James Pigg, 8-1 Hermes Harvest.

4.20 UK HYGIENE FOR HANDRIERS MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,947: 2m 1f 110yd) (20)

1	2	ALMUHTARAM 23 G Lewis 5-11-5	C Llewellyn
2		AS YOU LIKE IT 808F Mrs D Haine 5-11-5	J F Titley
3	3-35	COPPER MOUNTAIN 115 M Bielby 8-11-5	G Bradley
4		GOLDEN THUNDERBOLT 17F N Tinkler 4-11-5	R Dunwoody
5	06-	KRASNIK 341 (B) Mrs D Haine 4-11-5	Mr R Wakley (5)
6	3PP-	MAN OF WISLEY 222 Mrs J Buckley 7-11-5	M Brennan
7		NOTOOBIG P Cheesbrough 5-11-5	A S Smith
8		PARTY ANIMAL K Bailey 5-11-5	S McNeill
9		SHARK 11F K Morgan 4-11-5	D Pears
10	0P0-	SOPHIES DREAM 317 J Bradley 6-11-5	R Johnson
11	0	SYCAMORE LODGE 7 M Pell 6-11-5	L Wyer
12	6	TANIYAR 21 R Hollinshead 5-11-5	Gary Lyons
13		TRACEABILITY 63F M Hammond 4-11-5	R Garritty
14	PP/0	TYNDRUM GOLD 10 A J Lockwood 7-11-5	S Taylor (5)
15		YOUR THE LIMIT 115F J Parkes 4-11-5	S Ryan (5)
16	000-	GAUTBY HENPECKED 259 G M Moore 4-11-0	N Bentley
17		HADADABBLE 10F Pat Mitchell 4-11-0	T Kent
18		INDIANA PRINCESS 28F Mrs M Reveley 4-11-0	P Niven
19		QUALITAIR BEAUTY 53F Miss L Siddall 4-11-0	R Farrant
20	15-6	VINTAGE CLASSIC 12 (G) R Buckler 6-11-0	B Powell

9-4 Almuhtaram, 9-2 Traceability, 11-2 Party Animal, 13-2 Shark, 7-1 Indiana Princess, 8-1 Golden Thunderbolt, 10-1 Copper Mountain, 12-1 others

4.50 LLIMAH INTERNATIONAL / PARK SOCIAL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,573: 2m 6f 110yd) (9)

1	FU21	JOHNS THE BOY 31 (F,G,S) N Mason 11-11-10	R Guest
2	15-3	FAIR AND FANCY 84 (G,S) Miss M Milligan 6-11-9	L Wyer
3	2145	KING OF SHADOWS 42 (D,G) R Hollinshead 10-11-2	Gary Lyons
4	63-2	GALEN 11 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-13	P Niven
5	0/3-	SYMBOL OF SUCCESS 261 D Williams 6-10-11	Mr S Durack (7)
6	2U3B	WALLS COURT 7 (B,F,G) J Bikes 10-10-1	M Moloney
7	540/	TUDOR FELLOW 539 J Wade 8-10-0	A S Smith
8	0/4-	GAVASKAR 441 (F) A Streeter 8-10-0	T Eley
9	0P-P	DOUBLE ACHIEVEMENT 8 M Pipe 7-10-0	Mr G Elliott (5)

9-4 Galen, 7-2 Johns The Boy, 9-2 Walls Court, 11-2 King Of Shadows, 13-2 Symbol Of Success, 7-1 Fair And Fancy, 10-1 Gavaskar, 16-1 others.

5.20 CALDERPRINT AUTUMN MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,035: 1m 5f 110yd) (17)

1	5-3	BIGSOUND 15 Miss V Williams 5-11-5	R Johnson
2	F-00	FOREST FLIGHT 28 C Hemsley 5-11-5	Miss A Dudley (7)
3	06-	JACK 262 J Tuck 5-11-5	S McNeill
4		LOOK SHARPER R Buckler 4-11-5	B Powell
5		LORD SABRE J L Harris 4-11-5	Mr M Mackley (7)
6	0-05	LYSANDER 28 Mrs S Lamyman 5-11-5	L Sutherm (7)
7	0-	MAGNUS MAXIMUS 277 Mrs S Lamyman 5-11-5	R Farrant
8		MR JAKE J Charlton 4-11-5	A P McCoy
9		ONE FINE MAN T P Walshe 4-11-5	M Keighley (7)
10		PEACEMAKER Mrs D Haine 5-11-5	J F Titley
11		SEVERN REEF J Bradley 6-11-5	Miss V Roberts (7)
12	3	SLEETING 119 J Mackie 4-11-5	R Dunwoody
13		TELL MONTY Mrs J Brown 5-11-5	L Wyer
14	53-2	TOTEM FOLE 15 Mrs M Reveley 4-11-5	P Niven
15	0	ACCORDION BLAZE 14 R Woodhouse 5-11-0	W Dwan
16		BRIGHT EYES Mrs J Brown 4-11-0	N Horrocks (7)
17	50	ELLOPASSOFF 14 J Bradley 5-11-0	B Fenton

7-4 Bigsound, 9-4 Totem Fole, 11-2 Sleeting, 7-1 Peacemaker, 10-1 Look Sharper, 16-1 Mr Jake, 20-1 One Fine Man, Accordion Blaze, Ellopassoff, 25-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Mann, 5 winners from 16 runners, 31.3%; J Pearce, 6 from 20, 30.0%; K Bailey, 14 from 47, 29.8%; D Nicholson, 7 from 25, 28.0%; M Pipe, 16 from 66, 24.2%.

JOCKEYS: G Bradley, 8 winners from 22 rides, 36.4%; A P McCoy, 16 from 45, 35.6%; C Llewellyn, 5 from 21, 23.8%; J F Titley, 6 from 28, 21.4%; D Bridgwater, 9 from 46, 19.6%.

WORCESTER

THUNDERER

2.35 Northern Drums. 3.05 Brazil Or Bust. 3.35 Rowington. 4.10 Plan-A. 4.40 Northern Starlight. 5.10 Soldat.

GOING: GOOD SIS

2.35 CITY & COUNTY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,189: 2m) (7 runners)

1	1162	HONEYBED WOOD 23 (CD,F,G,S) M Sheppard 9-11-10	L Aspell
2	00-6	WHITE WILLOW 15 (D,F,G,S) T Wall 8-11-1	X Aizpuru
3	PF5-	ASTRAL INVASION 157 (B,D,F) T Wall 6-11-1	J Mogford (5)
4	311	NORTHERN DRUMS 9 (F) M Pipe 4-11-0	G Supple
5	3-R2	GALWAY BOSS 30 (D,G) I Williams 5-10-12	E Husband
6	558-	ILANDRA 7F G L Moore 5-10-11	M Batchelor (3)
7	520-	EASTINI GOLD 189 (D,F) R J Price 5-10-7	D J Kavanagh

9-4 Northern Drums, 3-1 Galway Boss, 7-2 Honeybed Wood, 8-1 Ilandra, Eastini Gold, 12-1 White Willow, Astral Invasion

3.05 JOHN BURKE MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,770: 2m) (3)

1	632-	BRAZIL OR BUST 270 (D,F,G) P R Webber 6-11-10	C O'Dwyer
2	2211	NO LIGHT 15 (CD,F,G,S) A Turnell 10-11-9	L Harvey
3	5531	SIGMA RUN 8 (B,D,F,G) J O'Shea 8-10-13	M A Fitzgerald

5-4 Brazil Or Bust, 7-4 No Light, 9-4 Sigma Run.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Nicholson, 27 winners from 88 runners, 30.7%; M Pipe, 46 from 156, 29.5%; P Nicholls, 14 from 57, 24.6%; P Hobbs, 26 from 125, 20.8%; R Hodges, 6 from 35, 17.1%

JOCKEYS: L Aspell, 4 winners from 16 rides, 25.0%; D Bridgwater, 25 from 142, 17.6%; A Maguire, 31 from 182, 17.0%; D Morris, 7 from 42, 16.7%; E Husband, 3 from 21, 14.3%; L Harvey, 9 from 77, 11.7%.

3.35 SUZANNE KIRBY EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,443: 2m 2f) (6)

1	23-5	CERTAIN SHOT 22 (BF) G McCourt 6-11-0	D Bridgwater
2		LIFE'S WORK P Hobbs 5-11-0	G Tormey
3	00-	MICHIGAN BLUE 175 W Jenks 5-11-0	T Jenks
4	P-P	PARAMOUNT LEADER 128 D Marks 5-11-0	D Gallagher
5	1/	ROWINGTON 885 (G) D Nicholson 6-11-0	A Maguire
6		BRAVE FRIEND C M Hicks 5-10-9	V Slattery

8-15 Rowington, 7-2 Certain Shot, 4-1 Life's Work, 16-1 Michigan Blue, 25-1 Paramount Leader, Brave Friend.

4.10 PVC CHALLENGE HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,740: 2m 4f 110yd) (3)

1	6P-U	STRONG TARQUIN 9 (G,S) P Nicholls 7-11-10	T J Murphy
2	/15-	HIGHLAND JACK 324 (G) A Turnell 7-10-12	C Rae (7)
3	R12-	PLAN-A 175 (BF,F) R Alner 7-10-7	P Holley

6-4 Plan-A, 7-4 Highland Jack, 9-4 Strong Tarquin.

4.40 FRED RIMELL MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE
(£3,782: 2m 4f 110yd) (5)

1	1-21	NORTHERN STARLIGHT 2 (D,F,G,S) M Pipe 6-11-4	C Maude
2	/13-	DONTLEAVETHENEST 364 (G) R Curtis 7-10-12	D Morris
3	/2-6	JALCANTO 21 (D,F) R Juckes 7-10-12	S Wynne
4	36-3	MORSTOCK 12 (G) R Hodges 7-10-12	T Dascombe
5	/0P-	ACT IN TIME 229 (S) T George 5-10-10	T J Murphy

1-2 Northern Starlight, 3-1 Morstock, 13-2 Dontleavethenest, 14-1 Act In Time, 16-1 Jalcanto.

5.10 LADBROKES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,459: 2m 4f) (4)

1	300-	EXPRESS GIFT 113F (G,S) M Pitman 8-12-0	W Marston
2	P52-	SOLDAT 185 (S) D Nicholson 4-11-3	A Maguire
3	1F-5	SILVER STANDARD 14 (B,D,G,S) T Forster 7-10-3	S Wynne
4	14-1	CASSIO'S BOY 14 (CD,G,S) G McCourt 6-10-2	D J Moffatt

10-11 Soldat, 7-2 Cassio's Boy, 9-2 Express Gift, 5-1 Silver Standard.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Doncaster

Going: good

2.00 (7f) 1, Zaya (Paul Eddery, 9-4); 2, Legal Lunch (16-1); 3, Kilcullen (9-1). Joint Regent 2-1 fav. 12 ran. 2l, 1¼l. S bin Suroor. Tote: £3.10; £1.20, £3.60, £2.70. DF: £33.70. Trio: £123.30. CSF: £33.63.

2.30 (7f) 1, Nant Y Gamer (C Lowther, 7-1); 2, Davis Rock (8-1); 3, Caudillo (16-1). Plan For Profit (4th) 4-1 fav. 22 ran. ¾l, ¾l. J Berry. Tote: £9.10; £3.50, £2.60, £8.60. DF: £29.20. Trio: £121.40. CSF: £57.89.

3.00 (1m) 1, Merciless (J Carroll, 11-2); 2, Silver Rhapsody (2-1 fav); 3, Putuma (3-1). 18 ran. 1¾l, 3½l. S bin Suroor. Tote: £11.30; £3.30, £1.70, £1.90. DF: £14.90. Trio: £8.80. CSF: £15.76.

3.30 (1m 6f 132yd) 1, Jawah (C Lowther, 10-1); 2, Silence In Court (25-1); 3, All On (14-1); 4, Campaspe (10-1). Moon Colony 100-30 fav. 18 ran. ¾l, 3l. K Mahdi. Tote: £12.10; £2.20, £8.60, £2.30, £2.80. DF: £327.70. Trio: £748.40. CSF: £231.18. Tricast: £3,215.02.

4.00 (1m) 1, Panama House (G Duffield, 20-1); 2, Dutch Lad (11-4 fav); 3, Winsa (13-2). 14 ran. ½l, 3½l. T Easterby. Tote: £21.50; £3.40, £1.80, £2.20. DF: £63.00. Trio: [illegible]. CSF: £64.38. Tricast: £398.67.

4.30 (1m 2f 60yd) 1, American Whisper (C Lowther, 12-1); 2, Secret Ballot (4-1 fav); 3, Night Mirage (8-1); 4, Zoom Up (8-1). 18 ran. NR: Mardrew. 3l, 4l. P Harris. Tote: £12.20; £2.80, £1.80, £2.60, £2.40. DF: £30.70. Trio: £112.80. CSF: £52.08. Tricast: £432.82.

5.00 (7f) 1, Dolwaly Ritz (P Fessey, 16-1); 2, Legend Of Aragon (20-1); 3, King Uno (4-1 fav); 4, Fancy A Fortune (20-1). 22 ran. [illegible] J Watts. Tote: £18.90; £3.40, £5.70, £4.30, £7.80. DF: £285.40. Trio: £286.60. CSF: £307.55. Tricast: £1,44[illegible].

Placepot: £367.90.

Quadpot: £49.60.

Newbury

Going: good

2.10 (7f) 1, Victory Team (R Studholme, 11-1); 2, Zuro (8-1 jt-fav); 2, Taffs Well (8-1 jt-fav); 4, Scissor Ridge (20-1). 23 ran. NR: Lunch Party. ¾l, hd. G Balding. Tote: £12.90; £2.70, £1.50, £2.20, £2.80. DF: £27.80. Trio: £43.10. CSF: £73.32. Tricast: £705.53.

2.40 (2m) 1, Whitechapel (T Quinn, 10-1); 2, Jaseur (7-4 fav); 3, Etterby Park (25-1). 11 ran. Nk, sh hd. Lord Huntingdon. Tote: £12.80; £3.10, £1.30, £5.00. DF: £12.00. Trio: £46.40. CSF: £25.41. Tricast: £403.21.

3.10 (7f 64yd) 1, La-Faah (R Hills, 9-1); 2, Sensory (10-1); 3, Victory Note (9-2). Duck Row (6th) 7-4 fav. 8 ran. 1¾l, 1l. B Hills. Tote: £8.00; £2.20, £2.20, £2.00. DF: £19.30. CSF: £78.26.

3.40 (6f 8yd) 1, My Best Valentine (R Cochrane, 10-1); 2, Brave Edge (20-1); 3, Prends Ca (8-1); 4, Double Action (5-1 fav). 18 ran. 1¾l, ½l. V Soane. Tote: £8.90; £2.10, £6.00, £2.20, £1.70. DF: £128.50. Trio: £378.70. CSF: £184.65. Tricast: £971.32.

4.10 (1m 2f 6yd) 1, Conspicuous (A Daly, 25-1); 2, Top Jem (12-1); 3, Sharp Consul (13-2 fav); 4, Bubble Wings (9-1). 21 ran. Hd, 2½l. L Cottrell. Tote: £64.50; £6.50, £2.40, £1.80, £2.70. DF: £332.50. Trio: £204.20. CSF: £252.57. Tricast: £2,013.05.

4.40 (1m 2f 6yd) 1, Mowelga (D O'Shea, 12-1); 2, Ricardo (100-30); 3, Mary Cull (50-1). Shadiann 11-10 fav. 14 ran. NR: Prinia, Serpentara. Sh hd, 2½l. Lady Herries. Tote: £11.90; £2.80, £1.40, £17.70. DF: £20.00. CSF: £46.32. Trio: £455.00.

5.10 (6f 8yd) 1, Mister Rambo (M Tebbutt, 20-1); 2, Fa-Eq (11-10 fav); 3, Uplifting (15-2). 24 ran. Nk, 1½l. B Meehan. Tote: £52.20; £10.80, £1.40, £2.90. DF: £109.10. Trio: £167.30. CSF: £42.36.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £233,260.94 carried forward to Doncaster today).

Placepot: £368.20. Quadpot: £63.50.

Fakenham

Going: good

2.20 (2m hdle) 1, Highly Reputable (R Dunwoody, 4-1); 2, Red Light (11-2); 3, Sylvan Sabre (11-2). Dubai Dolly 3-1 fav. 9 ran. NR: Scorched Air. Sh hd, 1¾l. G Bravery. Tote: £5.50; £2.10, £1.90, £2.50. DF: £12.90. Trio: £107.70. CSF: £24.67. Tricast: £111.42.

2.50 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Its Unbelievable (M Dunne, 7-2); 2, Cyrill Henry (13-8); 3, Joker Jack (8-1). Oh So Handy 6-4 fav. 4 ran. NR: Newhall Prince. 3½l, dist. P Eccles. Tote: £5.10. DF: £4.00. CSF: £9.06.

3.20 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Peace Lord (J F Titley, 8-13 fav); 2, Highland Flame (33-1); 3, Spring Sunrise (7-2). 5 ran. 8l, 21l. Mrs D Haine. Tote: £1.60; £1.40, £7.10. DF: £33.70. CSF: £14.29.

3.50 (2m hdle) 1, Noble Tom (A Maguire, 7-4 fav); 2, Slightly Special (10-1); 3, Holkham Bay (25-1). 9 ran. ¾l, 2l. P Eccles. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £2.20, £3.80. DF: £8.40. Trio: £140.40. CSF: £18.25. Tricast: £307.47.

4.20 (2m hdle) 1, Misty Cay (R Thornton, 4-5 fav); 2, Silver Secret (11-4); 3, Mellwood (8-1). 7 ran. 8l, 2l. Mrs V Ward. Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £2.50. DF: £2.60. CSF: £3.67.

4.50 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, Manor Mieo (A P McCoy, 4-1); 2, Ruth's Boy (2-1); 3, Kippanour (10-1). Saxon Mead 11-10 fav. 5 ran. 5l, dist. G Prodromou. Tote: £5.40; £1.90, £1.30. DF: £5.80. CSF: £12.11.

5.20 (2m flat) 1, Laredo (C Scudder, 7-4); 2, Missed Call (5-2); 3, Vicar's Vase (6-4 fav). 8 ran. 2l, 8l. N Chance. Tote: £3.00; £1.50, £2.10. DF: £4.80. CSF: £6.49.

Placepot: £189.40. Quadpot: £9.00.

☐ The Tote Jackpot was again not won yesterday, and, with £233,260.94 carried forward, the pool could top £350,000 at Doncaster today.

Family ties secure Newbury victory

By Chris McGrath

HAVING saddled first and second yesterday, it is safe to assume that Barry Hills holds the Vodafone Horris Hill Stakes in the highest esteem as a signpost to the classics. Bookmakers, by contrast, were so contemptuous of what they had witnessed at Newbury that Coral quotes La-Faah, the decisive winner, at 33-1 for the 2,000 Guineas — preferring, at 25-1, the claims of Zaya, who had won a humble maiden at Doncaster earlier in the afternoon.

This was such a family affair that it was surprising not to see an "s" quickly engraved on the Horris Hill trophy. Michael Hills took command on Sensory two out, but his twin brother, Richard, was sitting motionless on La-Faah. This was partly because he was short of room, but he also had plenty in hand of those around him — as he demonstrated when bursting through at the furlong pole and pulling 1¾ lengths clear at the line.

"The winner has a lot more speed," Hills senior said. "The only time he has been beaten was at York, when the Knavesmire really was a mire." Angus Gold, racing manager to Sheikh Hamdan al-Maktoum, added: "He goes well on this easy ground so we'll have to bring him out early and see if he is good enough for a Guineas."

The race's damp squib was Duck Row. James Toller ended a splendid season in chastening fashion when the uneasy favourite, having failed to settle, found nothing when ridden, beating just two home. "He ran a bit flat," the trainer said. "Some of my horses have not been right, but he was working okay. I suppose it would have been better to be cautious and I regret running him."

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THE SECTION FOR CARS, BIKES, BOATS AND EVERYONE ON THE MOVE

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Barnard on the perils of rural rides

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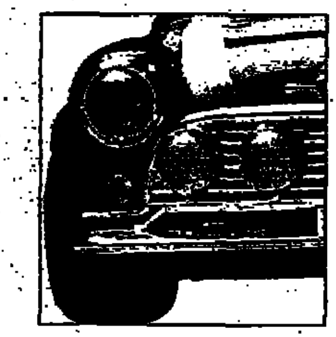

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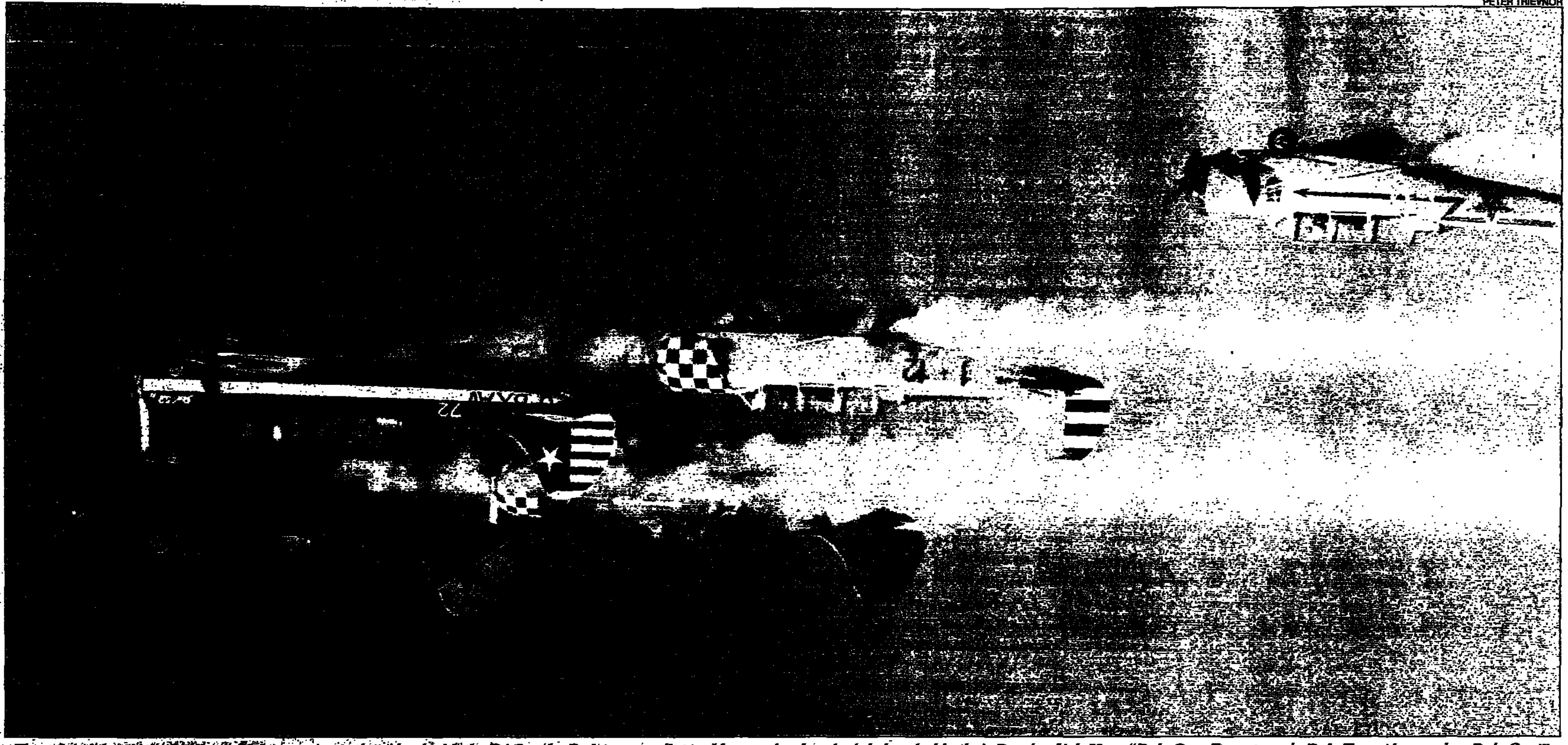
SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 1997

Aerostars do it upside down

PETER TRIEVNOR



Five take to the air the hard way: the Aerostars team trained with the RAF and a Red Arrows pilot and bear a simple principle in mind in their Russian Yak-52s — "Rule One: Do not crash. Rule Two: Always obey Rule One!"

Stuart Birch meets five amateur acrobatic airmen good enough to take on the world's top daredevils

Each of the five men appeared to be in serious pain, shuffling across the grass in a group, heads rolling or craning backwards, eyes raised to heaven. Each held *his right hand at waist height*, fist clenched. Suddenly, they turned in tight circles before two broke away, circled on their own with quick, short steps then rejoined the others. The leader was issuing a litany of orders: "Run towards Aces High, pulling ... go; break ... go; complete loop, wingover, right reversal into caterpillar ..."

It may seem a strange way for grown-ups to spend a Saturday afternoon, but Mark, Gene, Andy, Jeff and Garry go through this balletic sequence almost every time they meet. They are the Aerostars, an amateur aerobatic troupe — three of them just have an ordinary Private *Pilot's Licence (PPL) — the like* of which probably does not exist anywhere else in Europe.

Their individual flying experience ranges from 7,000 hours to a relatively brief 330, but the flying five loop, roll, climb and dive their rugged Russian Yak-52 ex-military trainers as one.

And next year they plan to contest the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale Aviation Grand Prix in Switzerland — amateurs appearing among some of the world's top professionals.

They take their hobby very seriously. Before they go whirling around the sky in *tight formation, the Aerostars always walk together*, simulating every roll, loop, twist and turn and each radio call of their 12-minute show, right hands clasping an imaginary stick, thumbs pushing imaginary radio talk buttons. "Going through the motions" on foot is vital.

The results in the air are *impressive*. With a combined engine capacity of 50 litres, the five Yaks' Ivchenko radial engines are orchestrated into a thunderous rumble as they move smoothly through the carefully rehearsed routines towards a smoke-trailing, high-g-pulling finale called "Red Star Burst".

Although in aerobatic terms *each Aerostar is an amateur*, there is rather more to them than that. Leader, Mark Levy (7,000 hours' flying time) is a British Airways' First Officer who flies Boeing 757s and 767s. Gene Willson is not only a commercial aircraft pilot (7,000 hours), but also managing director of Titan Airways based at Stansted. Fortunately, BA and Titan passengers are unaware that their pilots are only really happy when flying upside down.

Willson, Hammond, Sharp, Stow and Levy: "We compromise between what looks impressive and what is achievable"

The three PPLs are Andy Hammond (450 hours), once a rock musician, now a director of construction and computer software companies; Jeff Stow (850 hours), an industrial heating technician who currently runs his own property maintenance company, and Garry Sharp (330 hours), who specialises in recruiting directors to a wide variety of company boards.

"There is a huge disparity in experience between us, but we have all trained to the same standard," Garry says. "We believe we are the only amateur team in Europe doing formation aerobatics."

A cornerstone of that training *has been with RAF* fighter flying instructors on courses organised by Anthony Hutton of The Squadron at North Weald, Essex, where the Aerostars are also based. "They don't come any better than these RAF pilots," says Mark. "We have even had a Red Arrows pilot training us."

Having low total hours is not a problem for aerobatic pilots, he insists: "Most people with 300 hours will have been sitting quietly flying between *one cup of tea and the next, but* our team members with PPLs have spent most of their time in formation aerobatics, much of it at the controls of a Yak."

Gene sums up what makes a first-class aerobatic pilot: "Discipline and consistency in flying and the ability to complete the same precise routine time and time again."

Before forming the Aerostars, the five pilots competed against one another in air races but decided they wanted *something more challenging*. Did they all fly smoothly when they started work on their display last winter? There is a great guffaw of laughter. "There was a steep learning curve!" admits Jeff. But they all have great confidence in each other.

Ground plan: "Going through the motions" on foot is vital

YAK-52

Engine: Ten-litre, nine-cylinder supercharged *360hp Ivchenko radial*.

Performance: Never-exceed speed 270mph; cruising speed 150mph. G-limits: +7 to -5.

Fuel consumption: In cruise, 13 gallons per hour; aerobatics, 20-plus gallons per hour.

Price: £37,000-£40,000. About £150 an hour to fly.

With day jobs and families, finding time to practise is always a problem. "We'll never rival the Red Arrows," says Mark. "We compromise between what looks impressive *and what is achievable with a* limited amount of practice. This sort of flying is very satisfying."

Next year, the five Aerostars plan to become seven, with the addition of two very experienced amateur pilots, Mark Jefferies, a former British aerobatic champion, and Richard "Fred" Bassett. They, too, will join the soft-shoe shuffle rehearsals before every formation flight. The "dance" routine *may* look zany but it is a *major element of safe precision* flying. Andy Hammond sums up the point of it all as he prepares to step out towards the clouds: "Rule One: Do not crash. Rule Two: Always obey Rule One!"

Build your own plane in safety

Deaths such as John Denver's are rare accidents, reports **Eve-Ann Prentice**

Speculation about the air crash which killed John Denver has focused attention on the safety of home-made *aircraft such as the one* the *singer* was flying when he nosedived into California's Monterey Bay.

The futuristic, Y-shaped Long-EZ was an upmarket version of the sort of plane put together by thousands of enthusiasts in backyards and garages.

Costing from as little as £3,000, home-built aircraft are an increasingly popular option *for people who no longer see flying as the* preserve of the super-rich. There are around 1,200 home-built planes licensed to fly in this country and around 170 British models to choose from. Across the world there about 500 types of home-made plane and one of the *most* popular is the British-designed Europa, costing £45,000-£50,000.

"The quickest kits can take about three months — if you are *not working*," says Anthony Preston of the *Popular Flying* Association, the organisation which inspects home-built aircraft on behalf of the Civil Aviation Authority, to which most home-build *pilots belong*. "Against that, three to five years is typical and some of them are a labour of love which *goes on for 20 years or more*."

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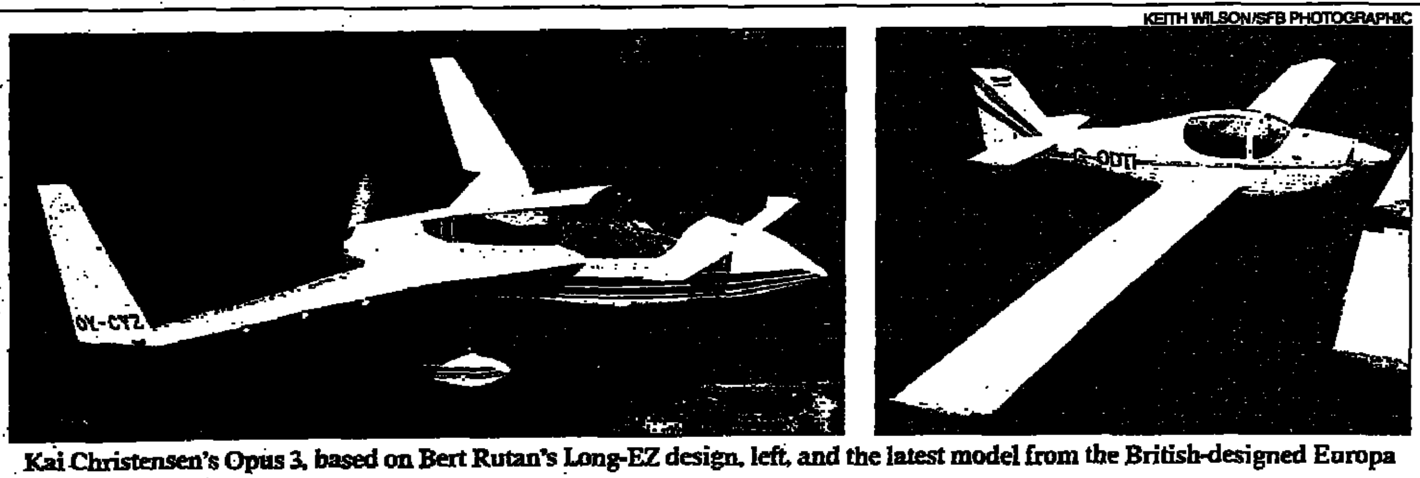

Kai Christensen's Opus 3, based on Bert Rutan's Long-EZ design, left, and the latest model from the British-designed Europa

Michael Fopp, director of the RAF Museum at Hendon, has been making his own Lance Air aeroplane for the past six years: *"The Wright brothers built their* own aeroplane, so I feel I am in good company. People who build *their own aircraft are the opposite to what most people think*, we are very meticulous."

Of the home-built aircraft flying in Britain, 18 are *Long-EZs* and none has been involved in a serious accident. More than 22,000 home-built planes are registered with the FAA in America, including around 1,000 Long-EZs.

Although it is possible to buy a kit or plans and materials for a home-made plane for as little as £3,000, they generally cost *£10,000-£15,000* and can be as much as £50,000, still generally cheaper than factory-built light planes such as Cessnas and Pipers.

There are nearly twice as many home-built aircraft flying in America than there were a decade ago, and the number of home-builts in Britain has increased by a third *every year since 1991, says the PFA.*

The Long-EZ, regarded as one of the *safest and most successful of the home-made* planes, was designed *in 1979 by Burt Rutan*. Denver's was built in *Houston, Texas in 1987* and *had changed hands four times before the singer* bought it from Van Snow, a veterinary surgeon. Mr Snow, who sold the aircraft for $56,000 (£35,000), had flown it for 700 hours without incident.

Long-EZs are made from plans and templates which are no longer for sale, although versions of the aircraft are still being built by enthusiasts using existing plans. Like other home-built aircraft, they undergo rigorous tests at least twice during construction before being allowed *to fly*. In Britain, checks are carried out by one of the PFA's 320 inspectors or the CAA itself.

Statistics indicate that flying is becoming safer. In America, there are half the number of accidents involving non-airline planes than there were 10 years ago. "There are *622,000 pilots active now in the* US," says Drew Stekete of the International Aircraft Owners and Pilots' Association. "Of all accidents, including fender benders, there were 9,257 in 1947 compared with about 1,800 last year."

In Britain, the CAA says, an average of 14 people have been killed annually in light aircraft crashes in the past 10 years. Since 1987, 65 people have been killed in airliners and other public transport aircraft.

But flying is still by far the safest *way to travel — the risk of being killed as an airline passenger is* one in ten million, the same as the chance of being killed by lightning. *From the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, more than 21,000 people were killed in car crashes in Britain*, compared with 103 who *died in UK airline accidents.*

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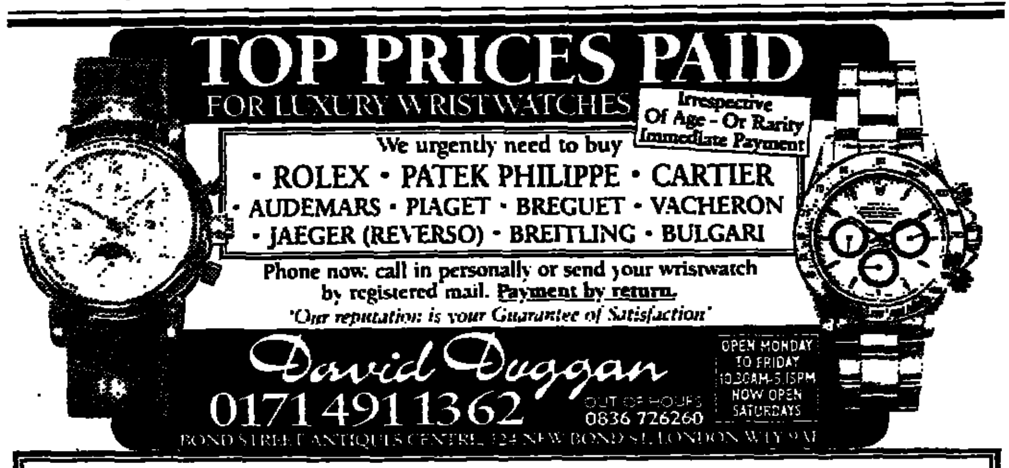

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Here's a fairly quiet-looking stretch of road. Well no, I can't actually see round that corner or over that hedge, but I daresay nobody's there . . .

In the country of the blind bend

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

This week's call by Richard Simmonds, chairman of the Countryside Commission, for rural areas to be saved from "the tyranny of the car" is a curious dish, containing elements of pie in the sky as well some more palatable morsels.

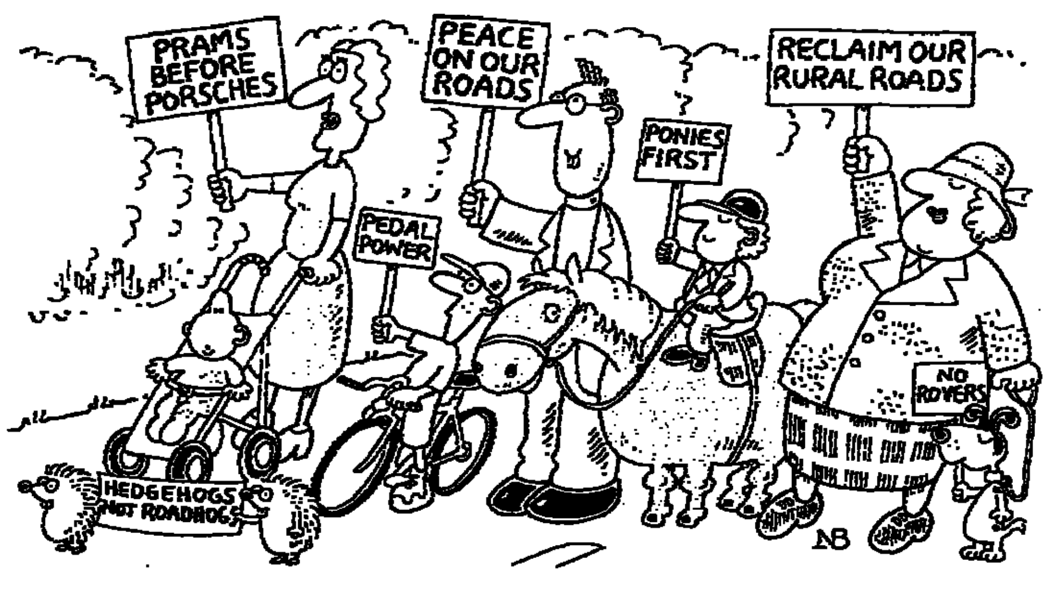
Unfortunately, the core issues raised have been somewhat overshadowed because much of the media attention has been given to the call by the Commission to have fines, road taxes and other driving-related revenue paid into a separate fund which would then be used to pay for managing traffic and enforcing speed limits.

Dream on. This Government — and all other governments — regard the motorist as a bottomless pit of riches, Bill Gates on wheels, whose hard-earned cash can be tipped into the vast Treasury vats to be stirred around and expelled from the other end in the form of cash to fund a wasteful public sector.

The Commission is absolutely right to say that having speed cameras paid for by local authorities, enforcement carried out by police authorities and the benefits reaped by the Treasury is a farcical situation. But the behaviour of those who rule the land has always been farcical: that is why they are in Whitehall. All they lack is a spin doctor called Brian Rix.

There is certainly much to be said in favour of Simmonds's argument that speeding needs to be restricted on rural roads. I am doubtful about his call for some of these roads to be declared car-free zones, because that is bound to cause severe problems for some car owners. If, however, Simmonds means that more residential areas should be declared "access only", that is a sensible step and one that local authorities ought to be pursuing with vigour.

I expect readers who live in cities will be surprised to hear Simmonds say that "in most country roads and lanes, it is no longer safe to walk, cycle, push a pram or ride a horse . . . drivers assume that, if someone is in the road round the corner and an accident occurs . . . it will be the non-motorist's problem for being there".



This is undoubtedly true and partly explains why I have long advocated a specific speed limit for rural roads. I suggested 35mph, but even that could be problematical when you consider another of Simmonds's points, that "there is still an assumption, a presumption, that you do not usually get caught for speeding and it is quite safe to cruise along at 10 per cent or more above the limit".

The cumulative effect of all this is that allowing small children to cycle along country lanes is simply not an option any more: urban environments are nearly always safer, because they have pavements. My youngest daughter is now aged nine, but she has limitations placed on her cycling because of the limited but significant number of drivers who treat country lanes as if they were one-way freeways.

The situation is not helped by some motoring journalists, fond of euphemisms but careless as to what they imply. Road tests often contain the phrase "press-on motoring", which has a sporty, even racy, edge. What it really describes is the car's suitability (or not) for travelling cross-country routes at speeds that are, shall we say, close to the limits of safety.

We all do it, certainly most men. We care for our families and wish to protect children, ours and other people's, but here is a fairly quiet-looking stretch of country road, well no, I can't actually see round that corner or over that hedge, but I daresay nobody's there . . .

This attitude marks the road to hell and, yes, it is paved with good intentions. The issue is a lot easier to define than resolve. There is no chance of littering hundreds of thousands of country miles with speed cameras, but their appearance on most urban roads has tempted more speed merchants off the beaten track, thus increasing the risks in the countryside.

A country walk may still sound an idyllic pursuit, but is best taken by people with steady nerves and eyes in the backs of their heads.

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 1997

Vive le Jeep, just 17 minutes late in from Peking

Alan Copps reports on an epic 12,000-mile rally — and looks forward to the challenge of London-Cape Town

Even before the finish of the Peking to Paris Challenge, billed as the longest rally yet for classic cars, entries were rolling in for an even longer event which starts exactly one year from today.

Some competitors on the London-Cape Town Reliability Trial and 4x4 Adventure Drive (those in more modern vehicles) will cover up to 14,000 miles, against the 12,000 miles that faced the intrepid drivers led into Paris last Saturday by John Bayliss and Phil Surtees in their 1942 Willys Jeep.

No one who followed them in regretted a single mile, least of all Lord Montagu, our own intrepid correspondent, whose 1915 Vauxhall failed early and who required rides in 14 different vehicles to complete the course. But he was delighted to find that his regular despatches to *Car 97* and *Go* won him a special award for best coverage of the event. It was presented at a glittering dinner in Paris by fellow classic enthusiast Lord Steel, who had to withdraw from the Peking-Paris event to take part in the Scottish referendum campaign, but who is advising on the route for the London-Cape Town and is determined to take part.

An astonishing 82 cars out of 97 starters finished the Peking-Paris run, some admittedly having covered sections of the route on trailers, but most having motored the whole way under their own power. In the original challenge 90 years ago there were only five contestants, all dragged by hand at various stages of the journey and four finished, with the Itala of Count Scipione Borghese 20 days ahead of the rest.

The 43-day route this time was quite different, running up to 17,000ft through Tibet and Nepal and becoming the first rally to cross Iran for 20 years. That the tough old Jeep won was perhaps no great surprise, although losing only 17 minutes in time penalties was a remarkable tribute to the skill of Bayliss, from Lechlade in Gloucestershire, and Surtees from Stoke-on-Trent.

There were two other remarkable things about the results, which, let's face it, are less important than the adventure. One was the dominance of Fords, which filled four of the first six places. Two 1950s American Ford coupés won the team prize for the Retromobilia team, named after John Jung's classic car dealership in Dallas. The others were a 1965 Cortina and a 1967 Ford Anglia estate, once rallied by David Steel but driven on this occasion by husband and wife team Nigel and Paula Broderick from Cornwall.

The other notable performance was that of the Iranian Peykan Hunters, updated versions of the much-loved old Hillman from the 1970s whose production line was sold off to the Shah as the Rootes group collapsed. An older British-built Hillman won the ladies' prize for the American pair of Linda Dodwell and Gennie Obert. The British ladies' team of ace horse-rider Francesca Sternberg and dress designer Jennifer Gillies also finished, despite having to practically rebuild their Volvo Amazon along the way. John Bryson who co-drove Gerald Crown's Holden to fifth place must now be one of the most accomplished marathon men, having also finished two London-Sydney runs in more modern cars. And of course there was a Rolls-Royce in the first ten, a splendidly original 1950 Silver Dawn from Austria.

An accident in Pakistan that killed two German entrants was the only tragedy in an extraordinary adventure.

RALLY WINNERS

	Penalty Hrs	Penalty Mins
1 1942 Willys Jeep (P. Surtees/J. Baylis)	0	17
2 1950 Ford (USA) Club Coupé (T.Thomas/V. Zannis)	0	21
3 1965 Ford Cortina (J. and S. Catt)	0	44
4 1950 Ford (USA) Club Coupé (J. Jung/A. Vann)	0	53
5 1964 Holden EH (G. Crown/J. Bryson)	0	55
6 1967 Ford Anglia Estate (N. and Ms P. Broderick)	0	59
7 1970 Peykan Hunter (S.A.I. Javid/H.K. Hedayat)	1	42
8 1970 Peykan Hunter (M. Eijadi/R. Khadem)	2	08
9 1950 Rolls-Royce Silver Dawn (K. and Mrs R. Dichtl)	2	12
10 1970 Peykan Hunter (V. Kazerani/R. Razzaghi)	2	15
Touring Category		
1 1972 Rover P5B (J Lux/D/ Drew/T Shaw)	0	01
2 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air (B. and F. Risser/ M. Fortune/G. Wilson)	1	50
3 1955 MG MGA (P.L., W.W., S.L. and M.L. Wong)	2	08
Ladies' prize		
1969 Hillman Hunter (L. Dodwell/G. Obert)	6	57
Team prize		
Retromobilia Team (1950 Ford Coupés)		
(T. Thomas/V. Zannis)	0	21
(J. Jung/A. Vann)	0	53

ADRIAN BROOKS

Towering achievement: Francesca Sternberg and Jennifer Gillies celebrate reaching Paris

■ Anyone inspired by the exploits of intrepid classic rallyists will enjoy the International Classic Cars Show which takes place at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham on November 15 and 16.

To mark the event, the organisers together with importers Ripmax and Moss International, specialists in classic spares, are offering *Go* readers a chance to win a superb Kyosho radio-controlled model of a Mini Cooper Mk 1, worth £240. There are four runners-up prizes of annual subscriptions to *Classic Cars* magazine and 50 pairs of show tickets also to be won. To enter answer this question: How many miles did the Peking-Paris rally cover? Replies to Classic Competition, Go, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Closing date Nov 3.

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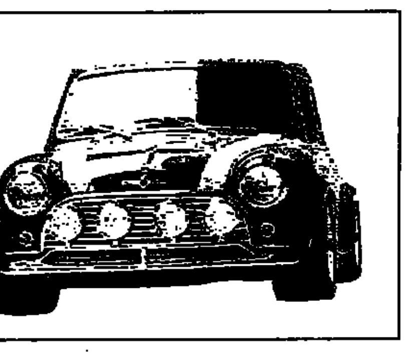

Navigating all over the world

THE PEKING to Paris event was one of the most ambitious international marathons yet. But interest in this branch of motor sport is burgeoning, *writes David Steel.*

There are three main organisations for those interested in this country. The Peking-Paris was organised by Philip Young's Classic Rally Association, whose most established event is the Monte Carlo rally, restarted in 1990 to recreate the atmosphere of the 1950s and 1960s along authentic routes. I have competed with four different cars five times and intend to go again next February. The route is about 1,500 miles, but this is not for the fainthearted, including ice and snow-covered mountain roads over high cols.

John Brown's Historic Endurance Rallying Organisation (Hero) is behind the even longer London to Cape Town event next year. I am advising on the diplomatic aspect of the route and hope to be a competitor since I know so many of the beautiful places to be visited. John Brown is best known for his Corse Retro rallies in Corsica and his very popular December annual Le Jog — a four-day mystery tour from Land's End to John o' Groats, on which I usually man the Borders control point as the competitors head towards Edinburgh.

The third series is Roger Deeley's Classic rallies. These are more sociable than others and require less expertise and equipment, attracting many husband and wife teams. His annual "Claret and Classics" run in France in early July is a week-long tour of vineyards, the rallying stopping each day at lunchtime.

Rallies go from East to West or North to South

His September Basque Classic involves rather more motoring in the Pyrenees but is still relatively gentle and appealing to the novice, although a failed clutch cylinder prevented me from finishing this year. Inexpensive "Heritage Rescue-line" insurance in the event of a breakdown is available from Norton Insurance brokers, Birmingham, who proved very efficient.

All rallies run on the principle not of a race (the average speed is usually only about 30mph), but of accurate navigation with points lost per second early or late at checkpoints en route. The sport is governed by the Fédération Internationale Vehicles Anciens, which issues identity documents and regulations governing modifications to classic cars, required for the more serious rallies.

For further information: Classic Rally Association, Ashbrook Mews, Westbrook Street, Blewbury, Oxon OX11 9QA; Hero, The Town House, Leigh, Worcester WR6 5LA; Deeley Classics, 50 Uphill Way, Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS23 4TN.

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
ABN GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing, 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	139.21	148.34†	- 2.01	...
Do NAV to Jan 20	136.83	136.83		
UK Equity Safeguard	109.27	116.35	- 1.53	2.47
Do NAV to Sep 19	106.93	106.93		
Cash	951.42	966.33†	+ 1.00	5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	362.90	386.10†	- 17.60	1.74
British Growth	84.83	90.72	- 2.49	1.42
UK Small Cos	79.36	84.65†	- 1.62	0.49
FTSE 250 Index	99.07	105.95	- 3.10	2.11
Geared UK Index	2273.46	2400.04†	- 117.00	5.75
Income Funds				
UK Equity Inc #	114.86	122.82†	- 5.27	4.24
Corp Bd	80.71	83.38	- 0.23	
Monthly Inc	42.87	45.75†	- 1.08	8.37
International Funds				
American Gen	310.60	328.60	+ 1.00	
American Strat	279.51	298.90	- 7.67	
JPS US Index	2322.88	2427.52†	- 9.00	4.00
European Gen	325.30	344.30	- 9.80	
European Strat	145.71	155.83	- 5.18	
Japan Gen	123.70	130.90	- 5.40	
Asia Pacific	75.47	80.71†	- 10.33	
Pacific Strat	125.15	133.84	- 16.19	
Greater China	215.28	230.25	- 51.96	
Latin America	125.84	134.57	- 9.09	
Int Growth	180.46	192.99	- 8.09	
Balanced Exempt	155.80	161.30	- 6.00	
Global Strategy	52.81	56.47	- 0.70	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	842.00	895.80	- 28.80	2.42
General Inc	686.20	730.10	- 23.40	2.42
UK Growth Acc	582.60	619.60	- 20.20	2.29
UK Growth Inc	368.10	391.70	- 12.90	2.29
Higher Inc Acc #	1053.90	1121.20	- 28.90	4.47
Higher Inc Inc #	540.90	575.50	- 14.90	4.47
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	228.30	241.20	- 0.70	5.33
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	95.11	100.40	- 0.30	5.33
Lat America	444.90	473.30	- 8.30	
Europe	445.80	474.30	- 11.90	0.09
Brit Excell	116.20	123.70	- 3.80	2.41
Brit Fndmtls Acc	143.80	153.00	- 3.60	4.30
Brit Fndmtls Inc	92.27	98.16	- 2.24	4.30
Global Opps	115.80	123.20	- 4.20	
Balanced Acc	73.51	78.21	- 2.45	2.26
Balanced Inc	67.20	71.49	- 2.24	2.26
Japan Acc	38.12	40.56	- 2.17	
Pac Basin Acc	305.80	325.40	- 54.20	1.67
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	141.00	149.70†	+ 0.10	6.09
High Inc Equity	219.40	234.70†	- 8.90	4.29
Worldwide Bond	270.10	286.40	- 4.30	3.45
American Growth	531.60	567.60	- 7.50	0.39
Asian Pacific	251.00	268.40	- 45.00	0.51
Assets & Earnings	345.20	369.20	- 9.90	2.53
Euro Capital Acc	241.80	258.60	- 8.00	0.77
Extra Inc	43.29	46.16†	- 0.50	9.01
General	317.30	337.50	- 11.00	2.91
Global Opps	80.23	85.35	- 4.21	0.37
Japan	87.00	93.14†	- 4.99	
Managed Inc	53.29	56.63†	- 1.30	4.04
Mastertrust	188.90	202.00	- 7.80	1.10
US Emerging Cos	229.60	245.60†	- 7.90	
Ethical	90.78	96.57	- 0.31	1.89
International	146.90	156.30	- 8.00	0.56
Dividend & Growth	81.59	86.80	- 3.16	4.02
Global Gwth & Sec	77.62	82.69	- 0.45	2.44

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Fxd Int Sec Inc	164.23	184.89	- 0.78	8.62
Fxd Int Sec Acc	171.68	172.36	- 0.82	
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	924.77	938.75	- 18.49	3.71
Investment Acc	4444.34	4511.50	- 88.80	
Fixed Int Inc	132.49	133.03	- 0.85	8.72
Fixed Int Acc	263.21	264.27	- 1.71	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	94.29	99.15†	- 1.02	5.06
Beck Bio-Tech	45.88	49.33	- 2.02	
Acorn Ethical Tst	220.22	231.25	- 2.28	0.39
City Fin Assets	90.52	95.05†	- 2.89	2.75
City Fin Intl	94.65	99.39†	- 2.59	0.06
Friars Hse Cap	374.67	398.59	- 1.18	1.56
Buckley Wrld Grth	156.57	165.96†	- 0.63	
Shaw Utilities	81.32	82.94	- 2.72	4.20
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	58.51	62.08	- 4.43	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	100.80	107.33	- 1.89	..
Dragon Growth	51.43	55.00	- 10.70	1.29
Equity High Inc	114.28	120.83	- 2.51	3.35
-do- Accum	171.57	181.55	- 3.78	3.35
Extra Income Inc	28.57	30.07†	- 0.03	6.21
Extra Income Acc	33.21	34.85	- 0.04	6.21
European Gwth	81.29	86.02	- 1.88	0.15
Evergreen	36.34	38.85	- 1.11	
General Equity	132.47	139.81	- 4.17	2.56
Japan Growth	37.35	39.73	- 2.57	
Pedigree Gwth	80.67	85.38	- 1.86	1.86
Pvd Sm Cos Inc	43.03	45.53	+ 0.15	1.32
-do- Accum	46.08	48.76	+ 0.16	1.32
Retirement Inc #	34.37	36.46	- 0.99	5.17
Special Sits	56.38	59.56	- 1.37	2.67
UK & Overseas	69.35	73.38	- 2.65	0.64
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 890 000				
Balanced	81.51	84.90	- 1.68	3.52
Capital	100.31	104.48	- 3.03	1.90
High Income	56.42	58.77	- 0.01	6.41
Top 50	72.01	75.01	- 2.59	1.95
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	225.17	234.58†	- 4.78	4.11
Long Gilt	49.37	51.40†	+ 0.14	5.22
Monthly Inc Plus	57.88	60.30†	+ 0.18	7.43
Preference Share	54.61	56.89†	+ 0.23	6.85
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	163.51	170.34†	- 2.38	5.26
Managed Fund	84.94	88.49†	- 2.84	2.56
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	54.12	56.38	- 0.56	1.57
-do- Accum	64.72	67.42	- 0.67	1.51
UK & General	120.96	126.00†	- 6.11	2.23
-do- Accum	161.97	168.74†	- 8.18	2.23
UK Growth	241.19	251.27	- 7.92	1.56
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	266.33	276.41	- 6.77	0.49
Far Eastern Grth	108.96	111.43	- 13.67	0.25
Global Bond	72.74	75.78†	- 1.10	6.78
Japan Growth	97.93	102.02	- 5.65	
North Amer Gth	306.19	318.98	- 4.70	
Oriental Growth	63.49	66.14	- 10.50	0.74

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FP Equity Dist	559.90	597.20	- 17.50	1.93
-do- Accum	1263.00	1347.00	- 38.00	1.93
FP Euro Gth	376.80	401.90	- 11.10	
-do- Accum	412.80	440.30	- 12.10	
FP Intl Bond	57.00	60.40	- 0.65	3.99
FP Intl Gth Dist	43.79	46.70	- 1.96	0.03
-do- Accum	64.32	68.60	- 2.73	0.03
FP Pac Basin Acc	184.80	197.10†	- 28.40	0.17
FP Income #	71.70	76.48	- 1.62	4.29
-do- Accum #	260.10	277.48	- 5.99	4.29
FP Jap Smlr Cos	192.40	205.20	- 0.50	
FP Monthly Dist #	86.08	91.81†	- 1.13	4.78
FP Stlg Deposit	100.36	100.36†	+ 0.10	6.26
FP Tokyo	70.94	75.66	- 5.70	
FP UK Fetus	51.51	55.05†	- 1.77	1.45
FP UK Growth	246.10	262.50	- 8.30	1.50
-do- Accum	506.60	540.30	- 17.10	1.50
Stewardship Dist	492.90	525.70	- 5.40	1.36
-do- Accum	627.00	668.80	- 8.88	1.36
Stewardship Inc Dist #	82.08	87.55	- 0.63	4.91
-do- Accum #	117.00	124.80	- 0.90	4.91
N Am Stshp Dist	162.90	173.70	- 4.70	
-do- Accum	175.40	187.00	- 5.00	
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical In #	126.10	126.70	- 1.80	2.90
Inst Ethical Ac #	127.50	128.10	- 1.80	2.90
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	147.30	156.70	- 6.10	0.50
Open Cap Gth Acc	148.70	158.10	- 6.30	0.01
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	132.80	141.20	- 3.90	2.50
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	143.80	152.90	- 4.30	2.50
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	138.00	146.80	- 4.10	3.63
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	151.60	161.20	- 4.50	3.63
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 108/7				
GANDA	366.90	386.20	- 11.80	1.49
Cash	49.78	50.53	+ 0.09	4.51
Income Portfolio	85.06	89.54	- 3.27	2.76
GA Equity Gth	278.60	296.40	- 8.70	0.79
GA European Gth	166.10	176.00	- 5.70	0.24
GA Japan Gth	88.80	94.32	- 4.88	
GA Nth Amer Gth	299.10	317.30	- 6.70	0.09
GA Intl Gth	138.70	147.40	- 6.30	
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
American Smlr Cos	273.60	292.70	- 7.10	0.11
European Gth	869.90	924.40	- 22.60	0.52
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	59.37	62.84†	- 1.01	3.36
-do- Accum	69.35	73.40	- 1.18	3.36
High Yield #	54.28	57.36	+ 0.07	7.04
-do- Accum #	63.66	67.27		7.04
Income Inc	229.30	245.20	- 4.90	3.63
-do- Accum	270.70	289.60	- 5.80	3.63
Intl Growth	424.50	449.90	- 14.60	0.27
Intl Income	113.30	119.90	- 2.80	1.97
Japan Growth	416.00	440.60	- 14.80	
Orient Acc	148.70	158.60	- 28.40	0.19
UK General Inc	229.40	245.10	- 8.30	1.61
UK General Acc	416.00	444.50	- 15.00	1.61
UK Sm Cos Div Acc	68.41	73.17	+ 0.56	1.59
UK Spec Sits	121.30	129.80†	- 2.80	1.17
US Growth	242.60	256.50	- 5.80	
Wwide Spec Sits	201.50	214.30	- 5.70	
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	74.01	79.05	- 2.03	1.72
Practical Inv Inc #	138.20	147.81†	- 3.37	3.25
-do- Accum #	343.77	367.67†	- 6.39	3.25

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Growth	86.49	90.33	- 2.38	1.12
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	106.60	111.30	- 1.80	4.88
Gilt & Fixed Int #	28.72	29.68†	- 0.03	7.32
UK Inc & Gwth	59.86	62.51†	- 1.55	2.44
UK Income #	458.70	479.10†	- 9.40	3.72
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	80.50	83.32†	- 1.89	..
Amer Smlr Cos	208.80	217.20	- 6.30	..
-do- Accum	211.00	219.50	- 6.30	
Europe Gth	297.70	303.00	- 6.80	...
-do- Accum	301.50	313.90	- 6.90	...
Euro Smaller Cos	51.53	53.65†	- 1.50	
French Growth	109.30	113.50	- 5.10	0.38
-do- Accum	118.30	122.80	- 5.60	0.38
H Kong & China	108.20	112.70	- 25.90	0.26
Intl Growth	77.89	81.15†	- 2.77	0.43
-do- Accum	79.42	82.75†	- 2.82	0.43
Japan Gth	23.17	24.15	- 1.14	..
-do- Accum	23.17	24.15	- 1.14	
Japan Smaller Cos	23.26	24.28†	- 0.74	..
Glob Emrg Mkts	102.30	106.80	- 7.70	
-do- Accum	103.00	107.60	- 7.60	..
SE Asia	231.40	241.70	- 50.80	0.34
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	49.80	51.35	- 0.68	6.44
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690446				
UK Income #	133.40	141.20†	- 5.80	2.89
UK Growth	138.70	146.80†	- 6.20	1.44
Euro Growth	117.30	123.10	- 2.40	1.81
Slater Gwth	223.70	238.60†	+ 0.10	0.04
New Japan	54.18	57.76	- 1.91	..
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	217.00	230.80	- 11.80	
Income #	272.09	289.45	- 2.83	3.88
UK Growth	101.37	107.84	- 1.53	2.13
Intl Growth	97.08	103.27	- 2.37	0.43
Ecology	118.95	126.53†	- 1.92	0.88
European	246.97	262.73	- 6.20	0.50
Far Eastern	274.80	292.30	- 36.10	
UK Special Sits	66.45	70.67†	- 0.88	0.37
Fd of Inv Tsts	60.59	64.62	- 2.18	0.42
High Income #	60.47	64.50†	- 1.63	4.68
Financial Opps	51.32	54.73	- 1.43	
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	108.00	111.70†	- 0.40	6.72
Euro Pty Inc	133.30	137.70	- 3.70	2.73
-do- Accum	123.60	131.40	- 3.80	2.73
Gilt Yield	126.50	133.30†	+ 0.70	6.36
Global Income	261.00	277.60	- 10.20	2.88
High Yield	198.90	211.50	- 7.30	4.49
-do- Accum	686.20	730.60	- 25.20	4.49
Money Market	101.77	101.77	+ 0.09	6.68
Smllr Cos Div	70.48	74.97†	- 0.16	3.45
Tsunami Co Ex Acc	1174.00	1192.00	- 24.00	3.23
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	205.60	218.70	- 4.20	...
Asian Growth	209.30	222.60	- 45.00	0.28
-do- Accum	246.40	262.10	- 53.00	0.28
North American	142.20	151.20	- 1.70	..
European Special	160.40	170.60	- 5.50	
European	224.80	239.10	- 5.97	0.54
-do- Accum	299.00	318.00	- 7.80	0.54
Global Eqty Inc	137.30	145.90	- 6.50	1.56
Japan	336.80	358.20	- 15.20	.
Japanese Special	166.00	175.50	- 5.60	
Smaller Cos	165.50	176.00	- 0.70	0.86
UK Equity Growth	61.97	65.95	- 1.10	1.08

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Pacific Growth	8.08	8.57	- 1.42	0.55
Emg Mkts Gwth	79.94	84.82	- 7.16	.
Japan Growth	49.38	52.38	- 2.47	. .
Dealing: 01277 842626				
Gwth Port Inc	82.00	86.72†	- 2.85	0.61
Gwth Port Acc	83.76	88.58†	- 2.92	0.60
Inc Port Inc	74.48	78.78†	- 2.34	3.46
Inc Port Acc	85.88	90.83†	- 2.70	3.34
Wwide Port	66.33	70.14	- 1.99	.
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01222 448412 Dealing: 01222 663512				
Equity Dist @	731.70	731.70	- 23.10	1.93
-do- Accum @	1547.00	1547.00	- 48.00	1.93
Equity Income #	126.10	126.10†	- 2.60	4.37

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Leaders	286.04	304.30†	- 6.00	0.92
PAM Mlg Bal Gth	77.14	80.31†	- 2.81	0.21
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	359.30	378.80	- 4.10	
-do- Accum	384.20	405.80	- 4.30	..
American Opps	150.80	160.00†	- 4.70	.
-do- Accum	152.70	162.00†	- 4.70	
British Blue Chip	120.90	128.50†	- 4.00	2.34
-do- Accum	160.30	170.50†	- 5.20	2.34
Cash	101.40	101.40	+ 0.10	6.63
-do- Accum	155.60	155.60	+ 0.10	6.63
Emerging Mkts	154.40	166.00	- 10.90	0.18
-do- Accum	156.50	168.30	- 11.20	0.18

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NLA

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Equity Inc #	73.51	78.77	- 2.61	3.98
UK Fixed Int #	54.40	56.81	..	6.73
Portfolio Service PEP				
Pep Gth Port	59.75	61.91	- 1.77	...
Pep Inc Port #	59.68	61.84	- 1.92	2.75
Five Arrows Global Investment Funds				
A Shares				
Asian Opps ‡	40.31	...	- 6.37	
Asia Pacific ‡	38.10	...	- 7.83	1.20
Europe ‡	47.52	...	- 1.57	...
Japan ‡	46.87	...	- 3.54	..
Latin America ‡	49.42	...	- 3.41	..
North America ‡	49.77	...	- 0.06	
UK Eq Income #	50.26	...	- 1.75	3.82
UK Major Cos ‡	49.33	...	- 2.08	0.99
UK Smaller Cos ‡	53.48	...	+ 0.17	1.05
For Royal Life Fd Mngmt see Royal Sun Alliance				
ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE UT MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0870 601 8183 Dealing: 0870 601 8080				
Royal & Sun Alliance Trusts				
Equity	1350.00	1443.60	- 45.00	1.52
Equity Income #	138.60	149.20	- 4.20	3.98
European	219.80	235.30	- 4.90	0.16
High Inc Bond	51.68	51.76	- 0.14	7.27
Portfolio	133.00	142.20	- 5.40	1.65
UK Index Trckg	249.10	263.50	- 8.40	3.84
UK Leading Cos	103.30	110.10	- 4.09	1.92
UK Smaller Cos	143.00	154.50	- 1.10	1.13
Royal Life Trusts				
High Inc Dist	204.00	217.00	- 6.40	3.26
Intl Cautionary	67.71	71.54†	- 0.99	4.29
Intl Growth	90.79	96.49	- 2.71	..
Intl Spec	79.76	84.85	- 2.52	...
Managed	214.60	230.70	- 6.90	0.84
Pacific Basin	65.36	69.82	- 7.89	0.37
United States	173.48	183.88	- 3.30	0.29
Sun Alliance Trusts				
European	185.00	195.70	- 4.20	0.17
Far East	136.30	145.70	- 13.30	.
North America	255.60	273.20	- 5.10	
Wwide Bond	55.80	59.28	- 0.68	4.26
Broker Trusts				
Pyg Intl Equity	85.78	91.74	- 2.46	.
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 764 400				
American Growth	252.00	267.40	- 1.90	0.99
European Growth	192.20	204.10	- 7.80	1.06
Far East Growth	108.70	115.70	- 23.00	1.22
Japan Growth	99.25	105.50†	- 4.50	0.54
Special Sits	269.80	285.90†	- 2.50	1.59
UK Growth	127.20	135.30	- 6.18	2.53
Intl Growth	322.50	343.10†	- 15.80	1.69
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 6500				
Far East Inc	135.20	143.10	- 13.80	0.86
Gt Euro Prog Inc	534.50	585.60	- 12.80	0.70
-do- Accum	838.60	887.60	- 20.10	0.78
Growth Inc	180.50	191.00	- 3.70	0.09
-do- Accum	185.80	196.60	- 3.80	0.09
International Inc	474.49	502.00	- 14.50	0.39
-do- Accum	656.10	695.40	- 20.10	0.39
Nth Am & Intl Inc	505.60	536.10	- 14.80	0.83
UK Gen Prog Inc	306.90	324.80	- 7.00	1.38
-do- Accum	355.60	376.30	- 8.10	1.38
UK High Inc Inc	181.60	192.20	- 4.60	4.79
SAMRA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0171 330 0572				
Asian Gwth	92.35	98.23	- 21.22	0.75
European Gwth	122.03	129.81	- 3.82	7.00
Global Bd	60.51	63.96†	- 0.89	5.00

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Investment Trust ‡	122.72		- 3.14	
The Football Fd ‡	97.66		- 0.05	
Restyle Buil Up ‡	101.23		- 0.22	
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	373.70	397.00	- 5.50	
Capital	164.70	173.00	- 8.20	1.29
Cash	100.56	100.56†	+ 0.10	6.51
European	194.20	205.40	- 11.00	0.38
Far Eastern	145.80	154.20†	- 18.48	
Growth	196.50	207.56	- 11.50	1.25
Income #	161.70	170.40	- 7.50	4.63
Magnum	172.90	182.90	- 9.19	1.38
Smlla Secs	642.30	679.70†	- 9.00	0.71
Thoroughbred	202.40	214.10†	- 10.50	1.43
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0800 78 71 005				
Capital Reserve	60.95	65.15	- 0.88	7.00
Ethical	92.43	98.85	+ 0.21	0.85
European Growth	98.27	104.20	- 2.30	0.17
Income #	72.98	78.05	- 1.98	4.19
Intl Growth	124.10	131.50	- 5.30	
Managed	107.30	113.70	- 3.90	0.79
UK Growth	88.93	95.11	- 2.78	1.38
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 33 33 53				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	52.17	52.44	- 2.13	1.25
Global Advtg Acc	57.38	57.65	- 2.34	1.25
Income Advtg Inc	43.35	48.57†	- 2.04	3.88
Income Advtg Acc	52.44	52.71	- 2.48	3.88
UK Equity Gth Acc	227.60	128.90	- 4.50	1.41
Premier Inc Inc	53.25	54.32†	- 0.11	6.61
Premier Inc Acc	60.39	61.60	- 0.12	6.61
Managed Acc	72.20	76.54	- 2.61	1.81
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	50.38	53.41†	- 2.03	3.52
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	69.60	73.78	- 2.82	3.52
UK Smlr Cos Acc	53.62	56.84	+ 0.18	0.55
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	99.10	105.30	- 4.60	1.43
UK Equity Gen Inc	69.73	74.09†	- 3.24	1.43
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	33.64	35.58†	- 0.07	6.23
Overs Lrg Co Acc	395.00	420.60	- 17.90	1.74
Nth American Acc	75.86	80.63	- 1.28	0.01
Pacific Basin	31.89	33.89	- 6.42	1.05
European Acc	70.31	74.71	- 3.20	0.23
Japan Acc	23.51	24.98	- 1.64	0.59
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 7000				
Global A (NZ$)	5.314	5.645	+ 0.01	1.60
US Eqts (US$)	4.613	4.885†	- 0.01	0.62
Far East Eqts (yen)	261.60	277.88†	+ 2.70	
FT Europe	197.90	210.20†	- 2.50	0.99
FT N Amer (US$)	3.898	4.142†	+ 0.00	
FT Japan (yen)	151.80	160.10†	+ 13.30	..
FT Asia Exjap (US$)	2.462	2.615†	- 0.24	0.97
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 3271				
American	649.20	684.70	- 9.10	
British #	1539.60	1628.90	- 29.50	2.23
Emrging Mkts	187.90	200.10	- 11.50	0.46
Euro Gwth Inc	114.80	121.70	- 1.70	.
Euro Small Co	65.20	69.44	- 2.37	0.18
Japan	103.60	109.60	- 6.40	
Asia Pacific	376.30	408.80	- 43.30	1.29
-do- Accum	409.40	436.10	- 47.10	1.29
Inv Trust Acc	332.90	352.90	- 9.20	1.00
Mngd Equity	233.80	247.40	- 4.50	2.33
Mngd Cash	95.69	95.69	+ 0.10	6.44

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PURPLE DAZE 59
Has making a will slipped your mind?

WEEKEND MONEY

A MAN ALONE 63
Is your adviser truly an independent man?

Sara McConnell finds new homeowners want value for money, not a shoebox with a smart address

First-timers shun starter homes

First-time buyers borrowed more and spent more on their homes last month, continuing to shun the studios and one-bedroom flats that were eagerly snapped up by the previous generation in the housing boom of the 1980s.

Hopes that rising house prices would force first-time buyers back to the cheapest homes appear to have been dashed in many areas, with estate agents across the country saying they "can't give them away". As house prices begin to slacken, agents are predicting the death of the traditional studio market.

According to the latest figures from the Halifax, prices paid by first-time buyers rose by 1.4 per cent last month, dwarfing the almost static overall monthly price rise of 0.5 per cent. The average price paid by first-time buyers was £50,362, bought on a loan of £45,234. This represents 88.9 per cent of the property's value, the highest since December last year.

Cheap mortgage money and competitive fixed-rate deals are insulating them from the prospect of more interest rate rises, says Stuart Tullah of Collins Sons and Harvey, the Birmingham estate agent.

He says: "Interest rates are up but historically they are still reasonably low. First-time buyers have come back to the market because there is the perception that house prices are rising and will continue to rise".

But cheap mortgage deals are bringing larger, more expensive properties within the reach of many who would have been able to afford only a small starter home in the late 1980s when house prices were rising sharply.

Such "leapfrogging" has hit areas outside London and the South East hardest because house prices have not risen sharply enough to force people back to studios. Many of the homeowners who bought them are still trapped in negative equity and have been forced to let them to get on with their lives.

Julie Westby of Vale Estates in Stockport says: "One-bedroom flats and studios are a nightmare. We had one on at £28,000 in a good area of south Manchester but we couldn't give it away at £20,000. People don't want to live in studios". House prices in the North West rose by just 0.9 per cent in the third quarter of this year, according to the Halifax.

Stuart Tullah reports a similar picture in Birmingham, where one-bedroom cottages and starter homes on 1980s estates are hanging heavy. "People's incomes are growing and they think they might as well move a bit further out and spend a little more. Instead of a small terrace in the inner city at £35,000 they go for a three-bed semi in Erdington or Acocks Green for £50,000 to £55,000." The West Midlands saw a fall of 0.3 per cent in the last quarter.

Even in London and the South East, where prices have risen most sharply, the market for studios is patchy at best. Glenn Bates of Nicholsons in Epping, Essex, reports some interest in previously despised one-bedroom houses and flats on 1980s starter estates. First-time buyers were able to bypass cheap homes during the recession but now some are coming back." A shortage of good properties is also leading to a larger price difference between one and two-bedroom homes, forcing some buyers back to the smallest flats.

In London, many buyers who cannot afford anything bigger than a studio in their first choice of area are choosing to move further out rather than squash themselves into a tiny space with the possibility that they may never be able to sell.

Ron Steiner of Plaza Estates, the North London agent, says: "The studio market died in the recession and it's dead now. People are petrified of being stuck, a prisoner in their own home".

UK buyers who cannot afford the £150,000 it costs for even a one-bedroom flat in choice areas such as St John's Wood are colonising surrounding areas like Willesden and Brondesbury. Prices in Greater London slackened slightly over the last quarter, further depressing demand at the lowest end of the market.

Hilary Wade, of Winkworths, agrees: "People are looking for space and they'll compromise on area. If they start looking at Islington they will go to Hackney or even King's Cross". Developers are building few studios as there is little demand for them, she adds.

The main demand for studios in London is from investors, many foreign, buying them to rent out, or from people living in London during the week and looking for a pied à terre.

The latter are the main takers for the expensive broom cupboards which periodically hit the headlines, according to Mr Steiner. He has recently sold a small studio to a senior partner in a firm of solicitors who needed to be in London a couple of days a week. Other takers could be 40 to 50 year-old divorcees looking for something small and central.

TO COME

Out West on location — not in the studio

Ben Ash and Sarah Wilkinson had a choice when they decided to buy their first home (Sara McConnell writes). Either they bought a studio or tiny one-bedroom flat in desirable Blackheath, southeast London, or moved to slightly less fashionable West Norwood and bought a apacious two-bedroom flat for the same £76,000 price.

They chose West Norwood. "We looked in Blackheath but we couldn't afford much more *than a studio. We wanted two bedrooms and a* garden," says Mr Ash. The couple's hunt for a mortgage has not been all plain sailing. They stopped dealing with one broker who advertised as a first-time buyer specialist.

He added: "We got the impression he was ramming endowments down our throats and got a bit sick of it." Another adviser gave good advice but charged high fees to prospective buyers who did not take income-protection insurance. Now they are awaiting confirmation of two possible deals from a third adviser.

Mr Ash and Ms Wilkinson are having second thoughts about fixing their rate after rumours that the Government was keen on signing up to a European single currency. "I believe we will be heavily influenced by the single currency even if we don't go in", says Mr Ash. "If interest rates are 4 per cent in three years we'll be caught". Originally they were considering a three-year fixed rate from the Nationwide at 7.05 per cent with no penalty for leaving when the three years are up. Now they are weighing this up against a disc*ount of 1 per cent over three years on Nation*wide's standard rate, now 8.1 per cent.

Check the lock-in clauses carefully

If you are a first-time buyer, you can be certain of being on every list for the best mortgage deals. You will be in a strong bargaining position with lenders who are desperate to entice first-timers, particularly as the market shows signs of slackening.

Almost all first-time buyers are being advised to sign up to fixed rates, discounts or other special deals in spite of the possibility that early entry into a single currency could force interest rates down.

Mortgage advisers say falling five-year fixed rates are some of the cheapest ever. The Halifax last week joined its rivals in cutting its five-year fixed rates for anyone moving house including first-time buyers. Those with a 25 per cent deposit will pay 6.45 per cent and those with between 5 per cent and 25 per cent to put down will pay 6.85 per cent.

But both deals will lock you in with the Halifax for another year and a half after the fixed-rate term has ended, on pain of hefty penalties. Philip Cartwright of London & Country Mortgages says first-time buyers in particular need to check lock-in clauses on fixed rates and discounts carefully. "If you think you will move in three to five years get a three-year fixed rate, if you could move in two, a two-year fix. Don't be trapped by extended redemption penalties."

First-time buyer deals from which you are free immediately after the end of the term include Nationwide's two-year fix of 6.55 per cent, Portman's three-year at 6.99 per cent, Principality's 6.99 per cent capped rate to 2002 and Stroud & Swindon's three-year 1.55 per cent discount.

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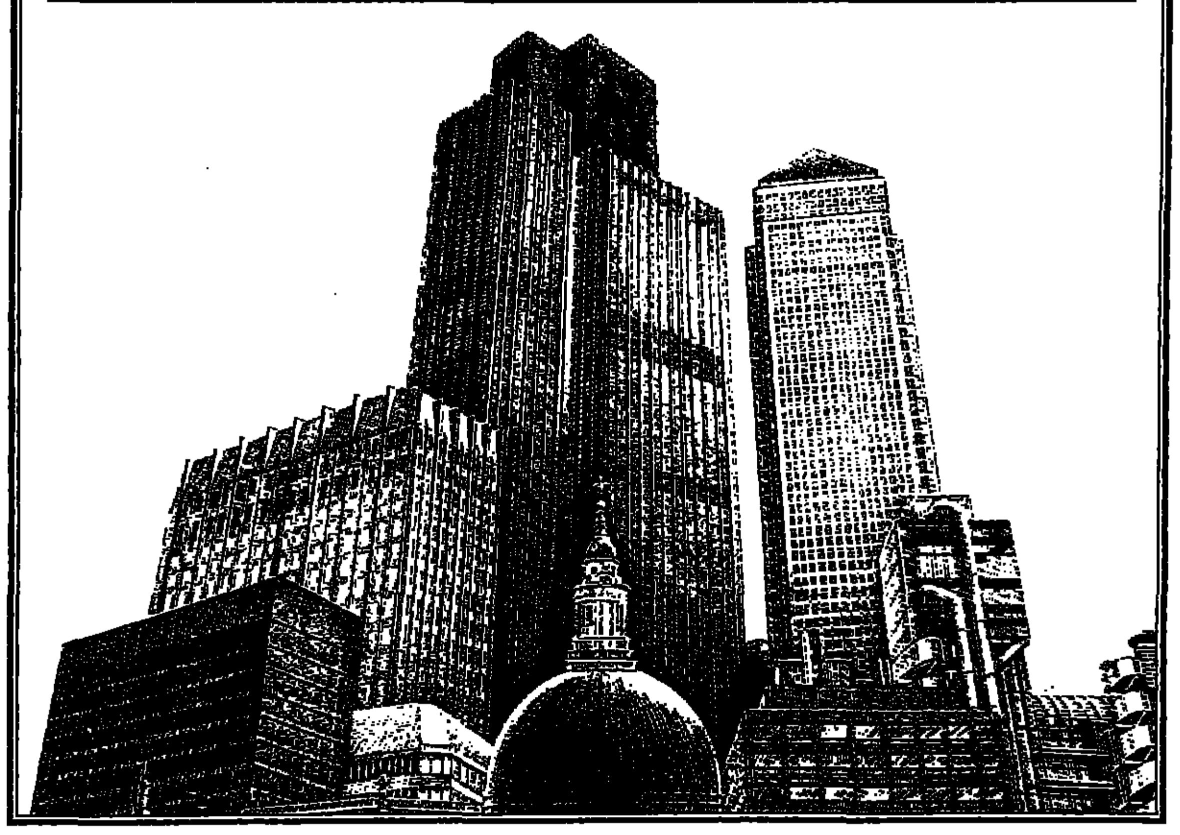

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Kung-fu kick catches shares

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Hong Kong it was that finally sent a share price tremor big enough to reach the West. The shockwaves from a local crisis rattled crockery and chimney pots in London, New York, Frankfurt and Tokyo.

Only Hong Kong of the Asian markets could do this, as we learnt in August when Western investors merely had to roll up their trouser legs to withstand a tidal wave from imploding markets in Malaysia, Thailand and other "tiger" nations. The dire Tokyo market, though many times bigger, has not been this infectious.

Links are more direct. HSBC, the old Hongkong Bank that owns Midland, is the most valuable stock in both the Hang Seng index out there and London's FTSE-100. The Hang Sang takes its name from the Hong Kong Chinese bank that HSBC so profitably rescued in a panic long ago. Cable & Wireless, Standard Chartered and Inchcape all depend on market conditions there. The city's financial centre is international, still dominated by Western groups. And although Hong Kong is an emerging market for Chinese stocks, its own corporate base is mature. Shares in the index were rated lower than in London or New York, even though the economy has grown faster.

The stock market is also notoriously volatile, as yesterday's rebound reminded us. In October 1987, when New York's Dow Jones average plummeted nearly a third, the Hang Seng shed half its value. The Tiananmen Square massacre cost it 37 per cent. Back in 1981, when political confidence evaporated, Hong Kong shares shed 40 per cent in three months, starting a 17-month bear market that eroded 60 per cent of values.

The economy and shares did not spring back until Hong Hong fixed its dollar to America's to bolster confidence. This link has seen the place through a political minefield at modest economic cost and acquired a greater status that it now deserves. Hong Kong leaders, who advised Malaysia not to buck the markets. are stripped for battle to defend the parity, whatever the cost.

That is fine if a show of force does the trick. The cost could be high if interest rates stay high long enough to puncture the bloated property market, on whose fortunes so much of quoted Hong Kong depends. And Hong Kong's currency is now overvalued for trade, if only because rivals have devalued.

Why not avoid all this by floating the currency fast? If a measure taken to protect the economy from past political instability becomes the source of present instability, it should go. But Hong Kong has big reserves, no debts, a sound Budget and built-in monetary discipline. Even George Soros, Malaysia's bogeyman, reckoned Hong Kong should succeed where shakier economies failed and argued that a stable currency was vital to a financial centre. For better or worse, Hong Kong seems to agree.

China, stung by a 10 per cent first-day discount on the flotation of China Telecom, is prepared to back the Hong Kong markets. As in any market, discriminating bargain-hunters should look out for high-class stocks innocently caught up in the mess. After the switchback, the Hang Seng is down a third from its August peak.

Having triggered latent doubts, Hong Kong's affairs now scarcely matter for Western stock markets. Only the *leitmotiv* of dollar strength, along with sterling's miffier buoyancy, features in the general rethink. Frankfurt was the other main candidate to trigger a general slide. Share prices had already lost momentum there and interest rates are on the way up to converge with the likely rate on a euro that will start softer than the mark, and to sustain the mark/euro in the face of the dollar. America too, expects some modest rise in short-term interest rates for domestic reasons, though US monetary policy is now so sensitive that rates are less likely to rise if the New York stock market dramatically loses its exuberance.

Overvaluation is the key worry in New York and in London, as discussed here last week. Prices have been chased too far this year. That was why the otherwise meaningless tenth anniversary of the 1987 crash made investors so nervous when economies are sound.

Share prices have broken modestly, upsetting the optimistic upward momentum. So why should investors buy markets that already looked too highly rated after six years plus of economic upswing? Ratings of 26 times earnings in New York and 20 times in London owe something to the secular fall in inflation and long-term interest rates. But they presume that lots of companies can keep annual earnings growth near 10 per cent in this climate. The case is unproven. The benefit of the doubt may now be withdrawn.

In contrast to Hong Kong, one good sign is that big investors are switching into bonds rather than cash, even though UK money rates are attractive. This implies that they are looking for a sub-1987 correction in share prices, not a downturn in the investment cycle. If London shares fell as much as 8 per cent and Wall Street about twice as much, that might be the end of it, leaving decent profits on shares in 1997. If that has to happen, the sooner the better.

Checks in the post deliver extra

Investors hunting the best home for their money in a period of relatively low interest rates are turning to postal accounts in search of worthwhile returns.

About 46 banks and building societies now offer such accounts, many of them with gross rates two percentage points more than rates paid on branch-based accounts. This is because postal accounts are much cheaper to administer.

Bristol & West, the current market leader according to *Moneyfacts*, the money information service, offers a rate of 7.65 per cent on a deposit of £10,000 for its 30-day account. This is more than two points higher than the 5.15 per cent offered by the Halifax's branch-based service for the same amount. Nearly ten years after Cheltenham & Gloucester launched the service, postal accounts are becoming increasingly popular with busy professionals who do not have time to visit a branch as well as the housebound and those who cannot get to their bank because they live out of town.

Postal account deposits usually range from £5,000 to £10,000. But some banks and building societies such as the Royal Bank of Scotland now accept deposits of £500. J Sainsbury and Tesco are making aggressive inroads into the savings market by offering high rates of interst on accounts with balances of just £1. Both supermarkets offer 6.5 per cent on an instant-access account, although Tesco imposes restrictions on the amount that customers are allowed to withdraw.

Most societies offer 24-hour turnround on transactions and a growing number of banks and building societies are now offering postal account holders a telephone service as well. These include Bradford & Bingley, Bank of Scotland, Cheltenham & Gloucester, Legal & General and Scottish Widows.

For those who can tie up their money for longer, there are a range of 30-day, 60-day and 90-day notice accounts. The longer the notice, the higher the rate of interest. Early withdrawals incur penalties. Postal accounts are not for impulse buyers. Even holders of instant access accounts have to wait for their mail to arrive. James Higgins, of Chamberlain de Broe, the financial adviser, said: "Postal accounts are for the older, more organised person; for the serious investor who plans ahead and is maybe saving up for a single purchase."

For desposits of £1,000, *Moneyfacts* recommends the First National 90-day account which offers a rate of 7.1 per cent. The Scottish Widows bank has a 60-day account which offers 6.8 per cent on £1,000.

For balances of £10,000, Bristol & West is offering 7.65 per cent on its 30-day account. Alliance & Leicester and First National offer 7.5 per cent on instant-access accounts for the same balance.

SUSAN EMMETT

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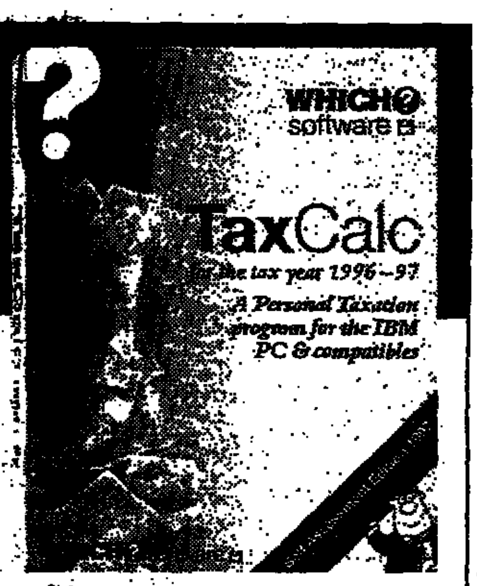

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Perhaps a little too cosy for comfort

COMMENT

MARIANNE CURPHEY
Personal Finance Deputy Editor

In principle, best-buy panels from which *independent* financial advisers pick carefully vetted products for their customers are a very good idea. The IFA maintains a good relationship with the top providers in the industry, and the customer can benefit from the hours of research into products that the financial adviser has put in on his behalf.

There is, however, the small matter of commission. A report from the Personal Investment Authority, the investors' watchdog, this week suggests that some product providers are effectively "buying" their way on to such panels by offering higher commission rates than rivals.

It also suggests that best-buy panels are often too small to provide a full range of options for customers. Of course, not all IFAs allow their judgment to be clouded by commission. However, many began their careers in large life companies and will be steeped in the *sales culture*. They *may* find it difficult to make the switch from agent to adviser.

Most IFA firms are small businesses; many of them employ fewer than 50 people and some struggle from time to time with cashflow problems. The temptation to sell a product with high initial commission rather than opt for something better, but cheaper, for the customer, must be great when the bills are building up.

At stake is the trust between *adviser and customer*. The very reason people visit IFAs is that they want to believe they are dealing with an adviser who will recommend a product that is tailor-made for their requirements.

Attempts to standardise commission have failed once already, so this is an unlikely solution. Unit trust companies recognise the problem but are reluctant to rock the boat. It is a matter that NewRo, the new regulator, must address with some urgency when it is launched next week.

One for the boys

VIRGIN DIRECT'S new current account mortgage, One, may have an appeal for sophisticated investors who venture into the choppy waters of borrowing to invest in the hope of earning a higher return than the debt's interest rate.

During the flotation of Norwich Union thousands of these investors took out bank and credit card loans to fund applications for extra shares. Virgin One's 8.2 per cent interest rate is lower than many personal or credit card rates.

This may make it a hit for reasons other than those put forward by its management just over a week ago.

Skipton case ends in tiers

Clare Stewart reports on a leaflet promoting higher interest rates that was ruled to have misled savers

Skipton Building Society has been rapped over the knuckles by the Advertising Standards Authority for a leaflet promoting its High Street Savings account.

The ASA upheld a complaint that claims about "new higher rates" that appeared in the leaflet were misleading because not all interest rates had increased and one had, in fact, gone down.

In its defence, the Skipton said that the leaflet had not claimed "that all rates were higher, but that the new investment bands now offered higher rates for new investors". The society also said that it had not received any complaints directly from customers.

Changes to the instant access account meant that instead of offering three levels of interest, six levels were now available. A new investor who had more than £5,000 to invest would benefit from the increased rate available, said the Skipton.

However, the ASA was unconvinced by the Skipton's argument and has asked it to withdraw the leaflet.

Also left confused by the changes to the instant access account and the lower rate offered was Vicky Shaw, a Skipton customer from Langholm, Dumfriesshire.

Mrs Shaw opened her High Street account in April with an investment of £2,000. The interest rate was 4 per cent gross and Mrs Shaw was told that if the balance fell below £2,000 the account would be closed automatically as part of the building society's anti-carpetbagging measures.

Last week Mrs Shaw phoned her local branch to check the current rate of interest on the account, given the increases in base rates between April and October.

She was told that the interest rate had in fact gone down and that her money was now earning 3.2 per cent gross because the account had been "retiered". To earn more than 4 per cent she would have to increase the balance in the account.

The rate offered is, says Robert Shaw, "ridiculous in this climate". The Shaws have topped up the account to move into the next interest tier, and for the time being they are retaining the account because the local branch is convenient.

However, the Shaws remain unimpressed by the Skipton offer. "It is poor, particularly when they keep spouting about the advantages of mutuality," said Mr Shaw.

The High Street account currently offers rates of 3 per cent for the minimum investment of £2,000, rising to 6.25 per cent on deposits of £50,000 and above.

John Dawson, secretary and general manager of the Skipton Building Society, said that the reduction in rate for the lowest tier was part of the society's move to keep out carpetbaggers.

Mr Dawson said: "We would love not to have this problem because the volume of new accounts being opened has so disrupted the service we can offer.

"We have tried to minimise the impact by restricting the tier affected. We are keeping rates under review because we appreciate there are existing customers affected by it."

Together with the condition of maintaining a minimum balance of £2,000, Skipton's further measure against opportunist investors has been to stipulate that new investors putting in less than £5,000 initially have to pay £25 to the NSPCC. Donations to the children's charity have already topped the £300,000 mark.

PHOTONEWS SCOTLAND

Skipton talks of higher rates but Vicky Shaw and husband Robert lost out under "retiering"

Sit tight or change track

The FTSE 100 index has had a rough ride this week and investors' nerves have been severely tested. Uncertainty over the UK's intentions towards European monetary union, the introduction of the new order-driven trading system for share dealing, and uncertainty in world markets saw UK share prices extremely volatile. The FTSE 100 opened this week at 5,271.1 and closed at 4,970.2.

Investors who hold index-tracking funds have watched as some of the biggest names in blue-chip stocks fell heavily on Thursday as the collapse in the Hong Kong market spread across the rest of the world. Particularly hard hit have been groups with a large exposure to the Far East including HSBC, which slid 9 per cent on Thursday.

Unlike actively managed investments, tracker funds do not switch in and out of stocks, but remain weighted in line with the particular index. Rebalancing of the portfolio is prompted only by very large price movements. Most FTSE 100 tracker funds follow all of the 100 companies and so shadow the sort of share price movements seen this week. The advice to those who already have an index tracker is to sit tight and take a five-year view, according to Tony Wood, marketing director of Virgin Direct, which offers a UK Equity Index Tracker Fund investing in all the FTSE All Share companies. He said: "Successful investors sit through short-term blips."

Rick Lacaille, head of quantitative investments at Gartmore, which runs its own All Share index tracker plus a FTSE 100 tracker for NatWest, believes initial volatility accompanied the introduction of order-driven trading this week, but the system should soon "settle down".

"Tracker funds are a sensible way of investing," said Ian Milward from Chase de Vere, independent financial advisers, "but the UK market has had a good run, and investors may want to diversify into other markets if most of their other investments are UK-based."

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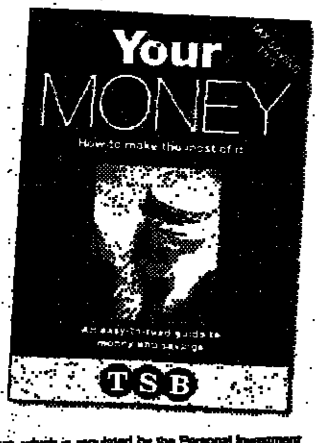
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OVER 50?

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FT Quarterly Review of Personal Finance 27 - 28 January 1995

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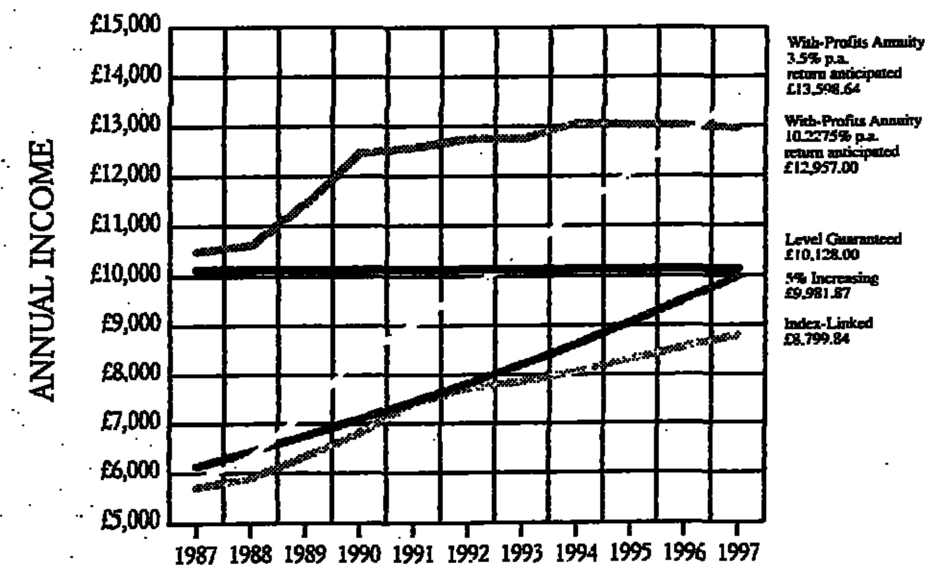

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The above graph is designed to show what happened to five identical people and how different their outcomes have become. The graph is not designed to favour one route over another - everybody's personal circumstances are different - that's why you should seek advice about the most appropriate route. Furthermore, you should appreciate that the initial levels of annuities and their relative positions would vary depending on the date of purchase.

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A future of never having had it so bad

The proclamation from Harold Macmillan in the 1950s that we had "never had it so good" was a chilling future prediction. Those who grew up in the 1950s and 1960s benefited from a generous welfare system and favourable tax treatment of savings. Today's young must start saving very early for the same benefits. CAROLINE MERRELL looks at a dark future for them.

Golden days: the postwar era with Eisenhower in the White house and "Supermac" Harold Macmillan at No 10 was an oasis of prosperity compared with today

People coming up to retirement today have benefited from substantial state support over their working life. They have enjoyed a free National Health Service, subsidised higher education and generous basic and State earnings related pensions (Serps).

Today, the Government has followed governments over the last 20 years, cutting tax relief and withdrawing welfare. Each name change of a particular aspect of the state benefit system has heralded a cut in the value of the benefit itself, with the result that the younger generation is now being asked to pay for more and more of what was previously provided for centrally.

And, according to experts, they are having to do this from income reduced by greater and greater amounts of tax.

For the very young, the situation will be even worse. Today's 20-year-olds will not be encouraged in to home ownership with big tax breaks. Marriage is not as tax-efficient as it was for their parents and grandparents, they will have to insure privately against redundancy and sickness and they will have to save a large part of their income to pay for their retirement.

The biggest expense for the younger generation will be the cost of providing for their own retirement. By far the biggest cuts in the government safety net have been applied to the basic and the state pension.

Reductions in state pensions began at the beginning of the last decade. The Conservative Government decided to link rises in state pensions and other social security payments to inflation rather than earnings. Because earnings rise at around 2 per cent a year more than inflation this represents a huge cut in the long term. In 1980 the basic pension was worth 25 per cent of national average earnings. If the break with the earnings had not been carried out, the pension would today be worth nearly £100 a week; instead it is worth just £62. By 2030, when today's 25-year-olds come up for retirement, the basic pension will be worth just 8 per cent of earnings. At today's prices this would be £30.

Serps has also been profoundly changed. The first hit on the scheme came in 1988, when the Government changed the way in which it was calculated. A man who started work in 1986 with a salary of £15,000, today will suffer a fall of £5,000 in Serps because of changes, assuming average pay rises. Further cuts brought in this year will cut a further £10,000 out of the projected pension in 2033.

As well as cuts to the state pension, in the last Budget the incoming Government decided that the favourable tax treatment enjoyed by pension schemes was anomalous. The concession that allows pension schemes to claim back advanced corporation tax (ACT) paid on dividends was scrapped, cutting the potential returns by around 0.5 per cent a year.

Those contributing to pensions where the eventual payout is based on the amount paid in, that is all those with personal pensions and all those with money-purchase occupational schemes, will have to find substantial extra contributions to produce the same pension they would have done before change.

According to Maurice Fitzpatrick, an accountant with Chantrey Vellacott, the ACT change will cost around £200 a year. This means that those who are 50 will have pay £2,000 extra in contributions, while those that are 25 will have to pay £6,000 extra in contributions.

Favourable tax treatment for homeowners has also been chiselled away, while the safety net that protects homeowners that become unemployed or ill has been severely restricted. The attack on mortgage interest tax relief began at the beginning of the 1980s.

Since then the prices of houses have more than doubled. Using today's average mortgage rate of 8.5 per cent, tax relief for higher-rate taxpayers in 1991 would have been worth a maximum of £1,000. The relief for basic rate tax payers would be worth around £625. The tax relief today is worth only £375.

Protection from the Department of Social Security for homeowners who lose their jobs has also been cut. First, restrictions on the amount of mortgage that was protected were introduced. More recently the social security safety net was cut again, so now very few people actually qualify to have their mortgages paid if they become unemployed.

Mortgage lenders are considering making mortgage protection policies compulsory — these typically will add around £25 a month to the cost of the mortgage.

Marriage has also suffered at the hands of the Inland Revenue. The Married Couple's Allowance (MCA) would have been worth £732 for higher-rate taxpayers in 1993; marriage for basic rate taxpayers would have been worth £457. Now for all taxpayers it is worth only £275.

Savings products have also come under Revenue scrutiny. Those who took out an endowment policy before 1984 would get tax relief on the premiums, typically this would be worth around £75 a year.

All these cuts means someone earning the average wage today of £18,500 will now have to save hundreds of pounds more year for pensions and extra insurances. Some pensions experts believe that total contributions of 10 per cent of wages will be needed to provide a reasonable retirement fund. The investments and savings plans that are available for saving are becoming less and less tax efficient. The Individual Savings Account (ISA) looks as though it will offer less tax breaks than Personal Equity Plans (Peps) and Tax Exempt Special Savings Accounts (Tessas).

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How tax changes have left you worse off since 1987

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Loses £300pa	Mortgage interest tax relief	Loses £625pa
Pays extra £200pa	Abolition of dividend tax credit	Pays extra £400pa
-£719pa		-£1,482pa
No effect	1998: rumours of abolition of higher rate tax relief on pension contributions	Pays extra £595pa
-£719pa		-£2,077pa

What may seem like bad news could be a buying opportunity, says **Gavin Lumsden**

A question of trust and discounts

Six of the best-known investment trust managers are gearing up to launch a campaign to win back public interest in their funds.

Next week Baillie Gifford, Gartmore, Henderson Investors, Kleinwort Benson, Mercury Asset Management and Schroders will announce a plan to target investors through mailshots, a significant move in a sector that has traditionally relied on word of mouth between well-heeled investors. Some believe it could signal the development of a joint marketing board for investment trusts.

Certainly, investment trusts need to boost their popularity. Weak share prices in the sector have provoked investors to withdraw £2.2 billion from investment trusts in the past 12 months, causing a vicious spiral that has pushed prices and demand down further. In this context, "what investment?" is suddenly a very good question.

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A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

Q *What exactly is an investment trust?*

A An investment company with a share quoted on the Stock Exchange. An investment trust invests in the stocks and shares issued by other companies. By buying the investment trust share you are buying a piece of all the assets that it holds in much the same way as when you buy units in a unit trust.

Investment trusts have three advantages over unit trusts, however. Unlike unit trusts — which can issue more units as investors demand them — investment trusts have a limited number of shares.

This limit creates a demand for a trust when times are good and protects the trust from having to sell its best assets to redeem investors who want out when markets are poor.

This close-ended characterisic makes them ideal vehicles for long-term investment. In addition, investment trusts can borrow to invest, a tactic that is known as gearing. Although this increases the level of risk, over the long term it enhances their performance. Thirdly, they are cheaper than unit trusts. Their average annual management fee is 0.8 per cent, which compares with 1.2 per cent to 1.5 per cent for unit trusts.

Q **So why have they become so unpopular?**

A Investment trust shares have the unfortunate habit of falling to a discount. When this happens they are worth less than the underlying assets which the trust holds. Discounts have nearly trebled to 11 per cent since 1994, although this is nowhere near the all-time low of 30 per cent in the 1970s. Widening discounts always make shareholders unhappy and there has been a sharp increase in takeovers of underperforming trusts this year.

Q **Should I put my savings into an investment trust?**

A Discounts are a fact of life with investment trusts and should not put you off entirely. Their rise and fall is cyclical, dictated by the law of supply and demand. Indeed, discounts can offer a good buying opportunity when they start to narrow.

Q **What is being done to reduce discounts?**

A HSBC James Capel urges investment trust managers to increase their appeal to private investors by launching more Peps, savings schemes, pensions and mortgage repayment products based on their funds.

Investment trust boards should be made more independent and the fund management contracts shortened to one year to increase investors' confidence that their interests are being looked after. Justin Harris, an HSBC analyst, said: "People should not give up on investment trusts. The doom and gloom over the sector is a cyclical reaction when people perceive there to be too many bad funds."

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Insuring your health has particular merits and difficulties for the self-employed, says **John Givens**

Soloists need to play it safe

Being self-employed offers many attractions, but the prospect of being unable to work and earn an income is not one of them.

If you are one of the millions employed by a company offering a decent sick pay scheme, the chances are that you have little to worry about unless struck down by illness or accident for more than a year, after which your sickness benefits might come to an end.

However, when you work for yourself, the fear of being unable to ply your trade will be at the back of your mind. If the worst happens and you cannot work because of illness or injury, the till stops ringing.

However, Britain's 3.5 million self-employed workers do have another option — insurance cover. Insuring your income by taking out a permanent health insurance (PHI) policy is easier than you may think, although being self-employed can cause complications.

According to Allied Dunbar, 60 per cent of PHI policies issued to individuals are held by self-employed people.

PHI insures part of your normal income, usually up to 60 per cent of gross monthly earnings, if you cannot carry on your normal occupation because of illness, accident or injury.

The monthly cost of policies depends on the deferred period, which sets out how long the policyholder needs to be unable to work before the monthly benefit begins. Companies offering PHI typically give quotes based on one, three, six and 12 months, with the premium being less the longer the deferred period.

Premiums also differ considerably from company to company and depend on a number of factors, such as age, occupation, state of health, family history and whether the benefits are fixed or go up with inflation during the policy's life.

The problem that the self-employed often have with PHI is proving what their earnings were just before making a claim. This is particularly so for those who have only just set up a business.

To make sure that policyholders do not insure themselves for more than their actual earnings — and would therefore be better off claiming rather than working — insurers check very closely a claimant's position before paying benefits.

Self-employed people have to prove recent net relevant earnings — that is profits from the business after all legitimate expenses have been deducted.

However, a new trader will probably spend the first few months earning very little while trying to develop business, so, if a claim came during this period, the underwriter of a PHI policy might argue that the benefits agreed to should be calculated as a percentage of actual earnings rather than of the amount a self-employed worker expects after becoming established.

In this situation, some insurers will accept your most recent employed income as a benchmark if you have recently left a company to go it alone, although, as with many insurance claims, you can never be sure what the underwriter's reaction will be until you claim.

To be on the safe side, you should ask PHI providers to outline their stance on newly self-employed people making claims before you buy a policy and ask for confirmation of what they tell you in writing.

PHI can be as cheap or as expensive as you want it to be, depending on how soon after you become incapacitated you want the benefits to begin.

If you have savings set aside and you know you can continue to pay the mortgage and household bills while you are ill and not earning an income, you should defer benefits for as long as you can afford to, because the PHI premiums fall dramatically.

On the other hand, if every penny you had has been pumped into your new business and you will need income as quickly as possible if forced to stop working, you will need a policy with the minimum deferred period of one month.

Deferring benefits for as long as possible makes PHI affordable for most people, although short deferred periods can mean the monthly premiums look frightening.

According to Allied Dunbar, a 35-year-old non-smoking man wanting indexed-linked benefits of £25,000 a year, based on normal net relevant earnings of £50,000 a year, would have to pay £62.23 a month for a policy with a 12-month deferred period.

However, if he needs a policy paying out after three months' incapacity, the monthly premium leaps to £178.23 — more than £2,100 a year.

The same cover fixed for the policy's life, rather than index-linked, is cheaper, at £44.73 for a 12-month deferral of benefits and £131.23 for three-month deferral, although the long-term sick risk seeing their income eroded over time by inflation.

Although the costs can seem prohibitive, PHI is rapidly becoming an insurance that more and more people — particularly the self-employed — are realising they cannot do without, especially if supporting a spouse and children.

Peter Kelly, Allied Dunbar's protection marketing director, says that PHI providers are becoming more experienced at dealing with the self-employed and allaying fears of claims being rejected or downgraded.

He said: "If someone is newly self-employed and likely to earn very little in the early days, we will basically come to some agreement about the earnings expectations of the insured and refer back to a recent salary for the purposes of a claim if necessary. We always look at a claim and try to find reasons to pay it rather than reasons not to, and most reputable insurers will attempt to honour 100 per cent of claims."

Allied Dunbar research shows that customers rank the security of a company and its record of paying legitimate claims as the key measures of an insurer, with the cost of policies down in seventh place.

Taking cover for trouble and strife

CHRIS ISON/SWNS

Clive Tanner, a graphic designer, took on more than a wife when he married 29-year-old office administrator Dee Town in June — he also splashed out on critical illness insurance and accident protection cover to help to pay the bills if accident or serious illness prevented him from working (Jon Givens writes).

The 36-year-old businessman, a partner in Creative Natives, a Bristol design house, decided in the summer that the time had come to make sure he had some protection after being self-employed for more than three years. He looked carefully at the schemes available before opting for a Black Horse Life Living Cover Plan, a critical illness policy which pays out a lump sum if he contracts one of the serious illnesses specified. He also took out accident protection cover that also pays out a lump sum if he suffers one of the accidents specified, such as the loss of an eye or arm.

In spite of already making some provision to provide an income if he is too ill to work, Clive is now looking to complete the cover by taking out permanent health insurance (PHI), which will pay up to 60 per cent of his normal monthly income while he is unable to carry on his business because of accident, injury or illness.

He said that marriage made him realise more than ever the importance of making sure he could pay the bills if he was incapacitated and unable to work. "Having the responsibility of a family has made me realise that I should take out a policy to protect my income if anything prevents me from working. I like playing football and it is always at the back of my mind that I could get injured. But knowing I have some cover to pay the bills if something happens helps me enjoy it more."

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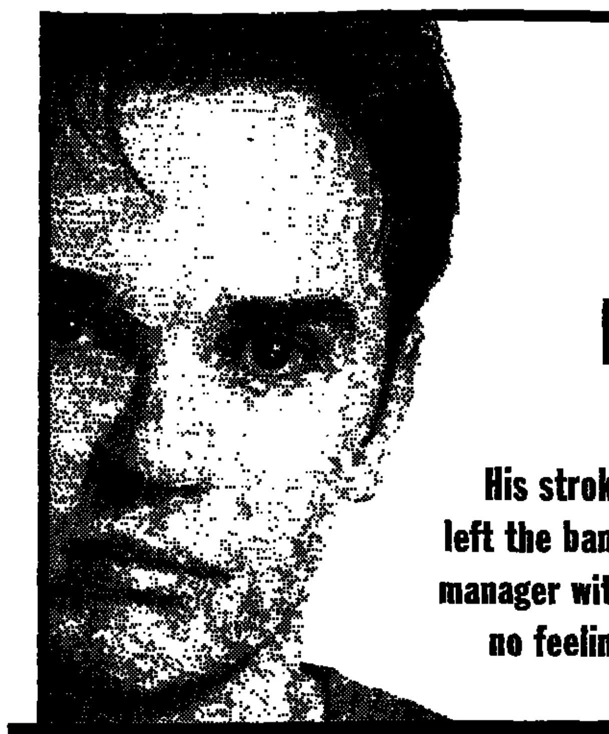

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Gavin Lumsden on a dispute over permanent health cover

STEVE HILLANTI

Dr Nick Howarth, with his dog Jake, at home reading in a special chair developed to ease the symptoms of back pain sufferers like himself

Doctors seek cure for insurance ills

A group of doctors and dentists have launched a campaign against the Medical Sickness Society, a permanent health insurer they claim is terminating policies of long-term claimants through the misuse of secretly filmed video evidence.

They allege that MSS is asking claimants to describe their own symptoms rather than relying on the independent evidence of medical experts. They say it has been known then to pay private detectives to film claimants doing things that are supposedly contradictory to the symptoms they have described. One doctor claims *he was followed by private detectives in* a car with blacked-out windows and was posted a heavy package by the company *that wanted to see if he could* pick it up, a claim vigorously denied by MSS.

The doctors and dentists complain that the policies are terminated on the advice of a medical officer who never examines them directly but simply relies on the video evidence. In spite of numerous requests, they say the company refuses to disclose the video evidence.

MSS, a subsidiary of Wesleyan Assurance, which has seen the costs of claims rocket in recent years, says that it is merely defending itself against potential fraud and denies it is systematically targeting long-term cases.

However, Dr Nick Howarth, a *doctor in Nuneaton,* Warwickshire, is taking MSS to an independent arbitrator after the insurer stopped its payments *to him after just four* months. Dr Howarth, 47, who took out his PHI policy with MSS in 1978, had to stop work in January 1996 when he had spondylosis diagnosed. This condition means he develops a painful neck and loses fine control of his fingers if he *stands upright for long periods. He is* currently taking morphine for pain relief. He started claiming in April, but in September 1996 he says he was told by MSS that it had obtained video evidence of him lifting heavy weights. It then demanded he repay the money.

Dr Howarth said: "They say they have video evidence of my mobility. I've never denied that I am mobile. The point is I can't stand still for too long and I am taking strong painkillers, and I can't work as a GP when I am on them. I told them I was playing golf for exercise to stop my muscles wasting."

A 59-year-old dentist in Leeds, who did not want to be named, said the *MSS* had contributed to the break-up of his marriage. He developed fibromyalgia and arthiritis, which leaves *his hands, particularly his thumbs,* extremley painful. This prevents him from holding instruments such as *drills*, which are essential for *his job*. After 30 years of paying premiums on his MSS policy he started to claim in September 1994. Fourteen months later MSS *told him it had evidence of him* doing DIY work. In spite of the report from an eminent expert in rheumatology *at the University of Leeds confirming* his condition, MSS stopped his payments.

When pressed, the company revealed it had actually seen him taking rubbish bags to a tip. In spite of repeated attempts to tell the company that, again, the lack of control in his fingers was the issue, not the inability to lift weights, preventing him from returning to work, MSS has refused to resume his payments. In addition, it has told other insurers with whom the man took out top-up policies. One, Friends Provident, has since terminated its policy.

His situation made him difficult to live with. "Managing on a state pension when you should be on £30,000 doesn't do much for your outlook on life. It leaves you feeling totally stressed. If there are any stresses in your marriage it just *destroys it.*"

Another dentist in Northern Ireland, who suffers back pain after a spinal injury, complains *that MSS asked for* five orthopaedic reports in ten months. He then replied to a letter from the company saying there was no change in his condition. The company accused him of exaggerating his claim, even though he says he never saw any of the reports, and backed this up with video evidence it claimed it had of him doing physical exercise.

Les Dilley, the MSS claims manager at the centre of all these cases, denied the company was doing anything wrong. "If a claimant describes what they can do in detail and if we then obtain consistent direct observation that contradicts what they have said, *what do you expect me to do?*"

Mr Dilley said secret filming, or "direct observation" as he termed it, was used in only *a small number of* the 2000 claims dealt with each year.

The company, he said, usually acted on comments from doctors and occasional anonymous tip-offs but only terminated a policy if there was a severe inconsistency with a previous medical report. He insisted that the footage was never edited and was taken over a long period of time. It was not revealed to claimants because it could result in a time-wasting arguments about what individuals did or did not do on specific days. If claimants *really wanted* to see *the evidence they* could take the company to court, he said.

Dr Howarth may be contacted by e-mail on 101740.1165@compuserve.com.

Virgin One puts flexible loans in spotlight

Lenders are moving to meet demand for loans for customers with 90s lifestyles, says **Marianne Curphey**

The launch of Virgin One, a new mortgage and current account, by Richard Branson's Virgin Direct, has highlighted the growth in the number of *new* "flexible mortgages" which lenders are offering.

These *products* are designed to free homeowners from the rigid payment schedules *which lenders normally* impose. They are intended to appeal to people who can pay *off sections of their mortgage* from time to time with lump sums: who have a good salary *but need to borrow heavily on* occasions; or who are self-employed and whose cash-*flow* varies.

This latter type of customer would find the option to take *mortgage payment holidays* particularly useful during slack business periods. Bank of Scotland and Mortgage Trust already offers mortgages *where payments* can be varied. Virgin One, a joint venture between Virgin Direct *and the Royal Bank of Scotland* (RBS), is different because it requires customers *to pay their salary into the* account as well.

Moneyfacts, the money information *service, points out* that the rates of interest Virgin One is charging are "higher than most *flexible mortgages*, many of which are also offering very attractive incentives".

Vicki Burn, Moneyfacts editor, said: "Sainsbury's Bank's Options Mortgage rate can be as low as 7.45 per cent for a loan up to 75 per cent of value and they also give £400 towards legal costs. Stroud & Swindon Building Society's Flexible Mortgage has a standard variable rate of 8.30 per cent and offers a cash rebate of up to 3 per cent, plus free valuation and free legal costs. Even RBS, Virgin's partner, *charges only* 7.7 *per cent on its* Flexible Choice and gives free unemployment insurance for four years although it has no chequebook facility."

Simon Tyler, managing director of Chase De Vere Mortgage Management, says the ideal flexible mortgage *customer would be in their* forties with substantial equity in their home and with enough *discipline* to borrow without getting into trouble.

He said: "This is not a mortgage for first-time buyers who can get a cheap discount or fixed rate and who need to *know their outgoings* will stay the same for the first few years. Flexible mortgages work *on a variable* rate so customers must recognise they could be hit by higher rates. They are only a good idea when rates are historically low.

"It is also not worth switching mortgages if you have to pay redemption penalties." Chase De Vere's own product, the Adaptable Lifestyle Mortgage which is backed by Mortgage Trust, allows payment holidays and early repayment *and currently has an* interest rate of 8.31 per cent.

Mortgage Trust also has a Current Account Mortgage *backed by RBS* which charges an interest *rate* of 8.24 per cent. It is available on a minimum balance of £25,001, unlike Virgin One which stipulates a minimum debt of £50,000.

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Seeking a voice for 'Sids' share interests

Angela Knight wants to see a Special Investor Forum to protect the interests of an army of small-scale traders

Developments on the Stock Exchange raise real concerns about small investor needs, says **Gavin Lumsden**

Angela Knight, former Conservative minister and head of the Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers, is calling for the formation of a Private Investor Forum to protect the interests of the 18 million Sids in this country.

As development on the Stock Exchange gathers speed, there are growing concerns that the voice of private investors is not being heard. Reforms, such as the introduction of the electronic order book this week, and the advent this year of Crest, the computer-driven settlement system, have been made to suit the needs of international institutions, she believes.

"Private investors get thought of as an add-on, not from malice aforethought, but because all the thinking is done on behalf of the international institutional players. However, this is not acceptable because three quarters of the volume of business on the Stock Exchange comes from private investors, and 20 per cent of the value of that business. That's a lot of business and a lot of good business."

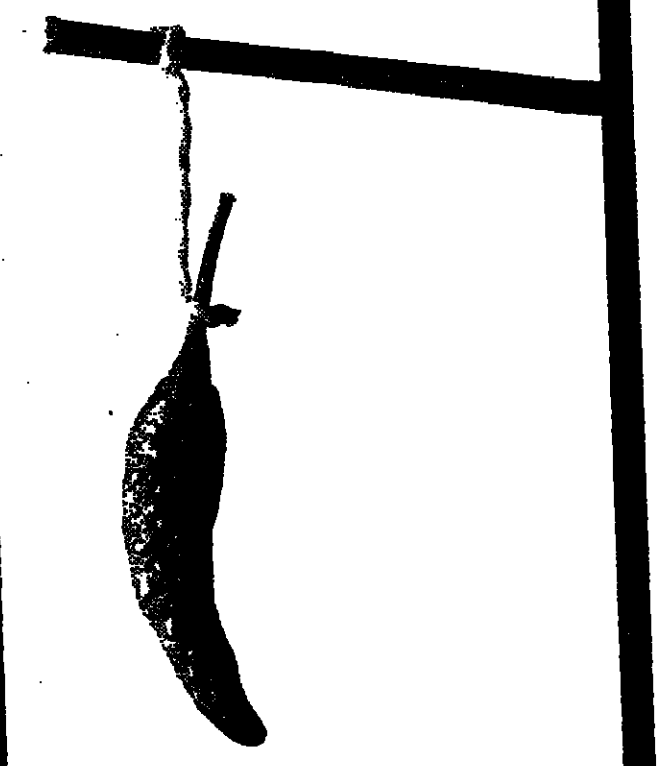
To counter this influence Ms Knight is aiming to bring together the Bank of England, financial services regulators, the Stock Exchange and investment companies to consider changes before they are made. On its agenda would be obvious pitfalls such as how the stock market will cope with the introduction of the single European currency, and the end of the century when many computer systems are due to reset their internal clocks to zero unless something is done. Other issues will be the extension of the order book, improvements in settlement time and including gilts in Crest.

The Stock Exchange has already demonstrated the need for such a body. Days after its historic launch of the order book it announced it was establishing a special sub-committee to look at the issues for retail investors. This committee is prepared to change the rules governing how private investors interact with the order book if problems emerge.

Why should there be problems? In theory, the order book, officially known as Sets, the Stock Exchange Electronic Trading Service, should be good news for all investors, large and small. Since Monday investors have no longer had to go to middlemen, known as market makers, who charged a fee for quoting a buy or sell price for shares in their hands. Instead buyers and sellers can now enter their orders directly into the order book, and already the gap between the buy and sell price on many shares has reduced.

However, most private investors are barred from the order book because it will accept only trades above £4,000. Their "non-standard" deals continue to go through market-makers, now known as retail service providers. The good news is that the RSPs are committed to matching the spreads on the order book. The bad news is that they may start to charge extra handling fees to compensate for the loss of fee income from their institutional clients. This fear has become more acute since there are only four RSPs. One, BZW's Trade, is up for sale and another, Aitken Campbell, is a small player. This leaves Merrill Lynch and Kleinwort Benson, who could develop a lucrative duopoly, although they assured Ms Knight that they have no such plans.

There are other pressures driving up the cost for private investors. Two companies which provide links to Crest, BT Syntegra and Swift, are increasing their charges. Most stockbrokers have not passed these on to their clients but give warning that this could change.



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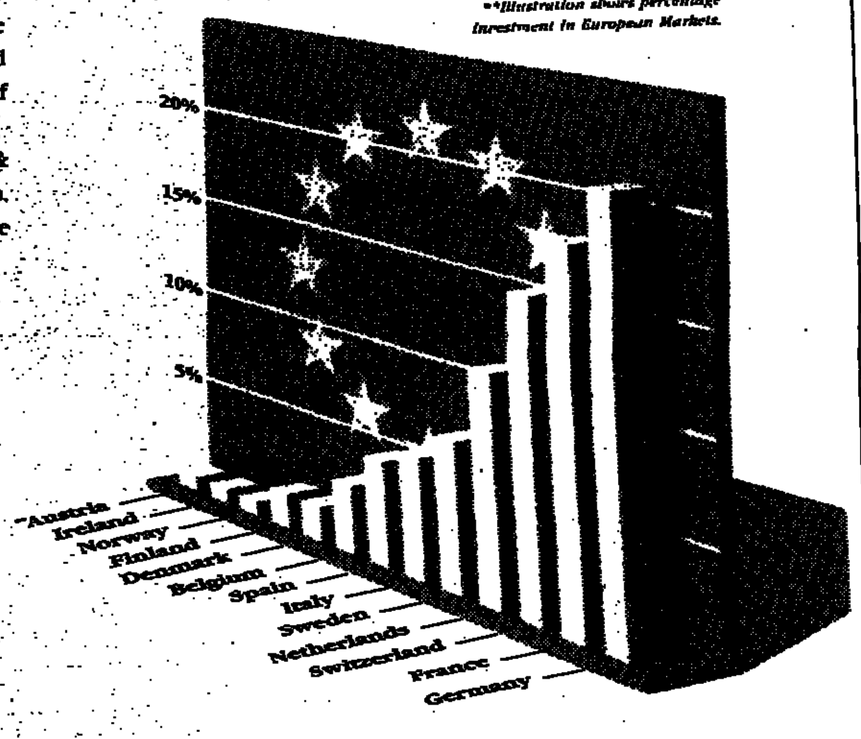

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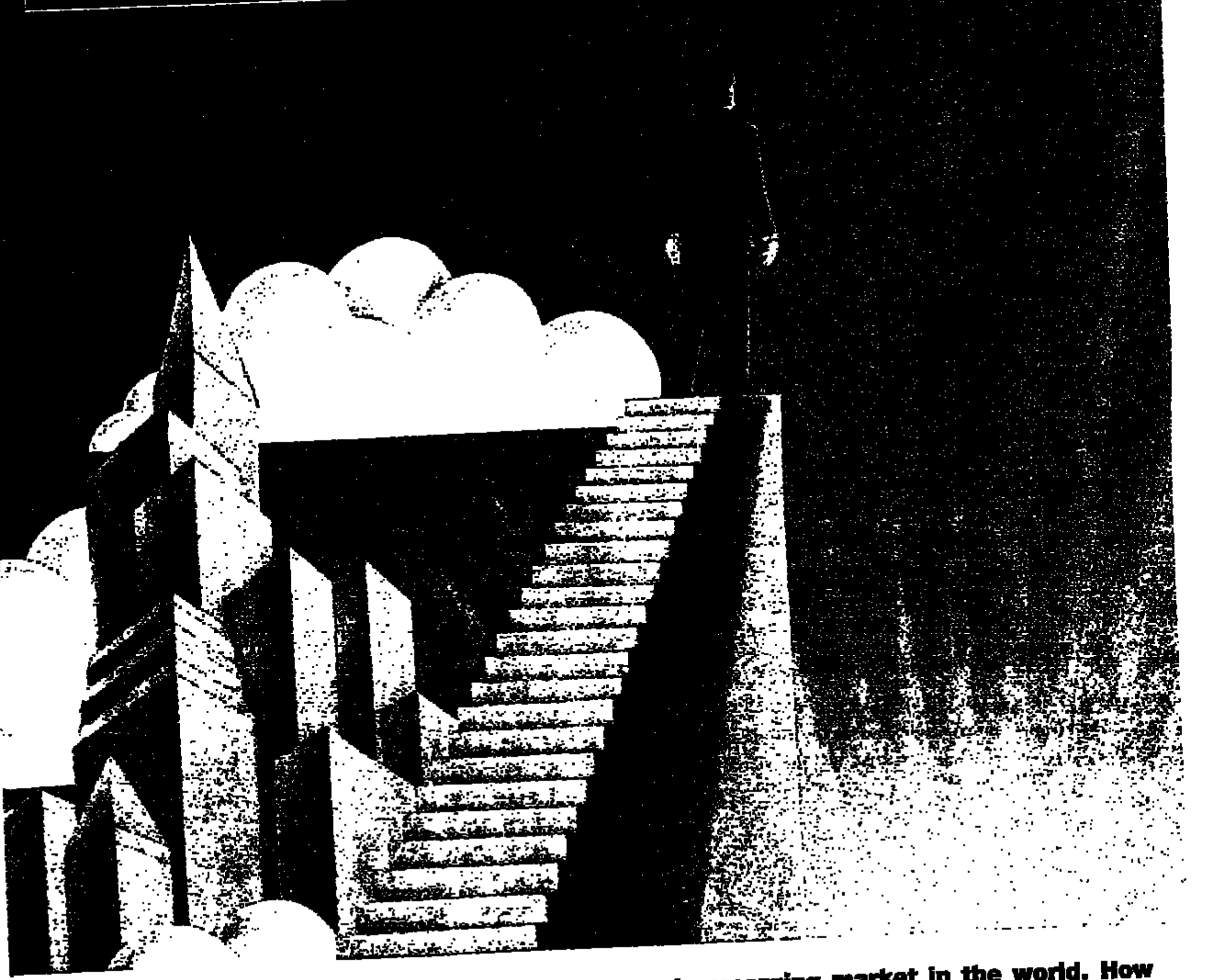

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Diana gifts may not all help the needy

Clare Stewart examines ways of finding out whether commemorative products will benefit the causes that were backed by the Princess

Buy this little teddy bear and 50p will go to Save the Bears Appeal. Spend £100 on this credit card and 25p will be given to the International Fund for the Preservation of Goldfish. A percentage of profits from these Christmas cards will go towards saving pine forests.

Marketing and charity make useful allies, and messages such as the above are a familiar tag to the promotion of diverse products and services, from lavatory paper to insurance.

Affinity cards where credit card spending is linked to a donation to a charity are a particularly common example, with a proliferation of worthy causes benefiting to the tune of thousands and occasionally millions of pounds.

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has given rise to a wide range of commemorative products being offered. While some manufacturers such as Wedgwood have held back, deeming it inappropriate to offer any such products, there are many others selling gifts which also promise a sales-linked donation to one of the Princess's favourite charities or her Memorial Fund.

However legitimate many such offers may be, the number of these promotions raises the question of how precisely donations are monitored. How, for example, does the purchaser of a commemorative set of coins or a mug know that the manufacturer is giving a percentage of profits to the charity, and not simply capitalising on public interest to boost sales?

The difficulty in this instance is complicated by the strength of response to the death of Diana. "A lot of people commenced production and fundraising in such a spontaneous way," said Kate Day, spokeswoman for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Technically, she says, a lot of companies may well be breaking the rules.

The Royal Mail says it is also keeping a watchful eye on some of the commemorative stamps that have been issued and offered for sale as collectors items in the UK, some of which claim to have been recognised by the Royal Mail. No official British stamps have been issued, and none will be, the spokesman says, until such permission may be granted by Earl Spencer.

The trustees of the memorial fund are currently assessing the many applications from companies wanting to sell products. "If a product is sold on the basis of a donation to the fund, that makes it a product endorsement and therefore requires the agreement of the trustees," Miss Day says.

Because of the rush of commemorative items, she added, not all companies now marketing products have gained that approval. "We are monitoring products we have not heard of," she says, as well as following up examples of product promotions making extravagant claims which have been brought to the fund's attention by the public.

Where companies are approved by the memorial fund, the terms of the arrangement are set out in a contractual agreement. The fund is also working on an official logo that can be used on products to denote approval.

In addition, products sold on this basis should clearly specify the nature of the donation and include the fund's charity number (064238). This is in line with codes of practice backed by groups such as the Advertising Standards Authority and the Direct Marketing Association.

Anyone planning to spend money on a product or service that is linked to any charitable donation should check the small print carefully so that they know exactly where their money is going.

The level of contribution should be clearly spelt out, together with the name of the charity or charities to benefit and says the ASA, "should not exaggerate the benefits to the charity or cause derived from purchase of the promoted product".

The code of practice also says consumers are entitled to ask companies to disclose how much money has been given to a particular cause through such a promotion.

If a product promotion of this sort is confusingly or misleadingly worded, it can be referred to bodies such as the ASA, the Charity Commission or the specific charity named in the promotion.

Leading national charities such as the National Trust unsurprisingly keep a firm grip on product promotion. Under the Charities Act, says Margaret Hopper, corporate development manager of the National Trust, "all commercial deals have to have a contract".

Earlier this year, for example, Green Flag launched a vehicle rescue service offer for trust members, promising to give the trust 20 per cent of the sales price of either of the two policies being offered.

"This is clearly stated on all publicity and the company has to supply statements. We also have the right to audit their books," says Mrs Hopper. The trust also asks for a minimum guaranteed donation from companies in the first year, "so that the trust does not lose out by lending its name."

One of the most valuable such relationships for the trust has been the Affinity card issued by Midland Bank which over the past eight years has generated about £1.5 million.

Affinity cards have long been marketed as a painless way of supporting a good cause. An initial royalty is paid to the charity when the card is first issued, and then a proportion of the spend — usually 25p per £100 — donated by the issuing bank to the relevent cause.

The largest issuer in the UK is MBNA, with more than 500 associated groups and charities, including the World Wide Fund for Nature and the Prince's Youth Business Trust. Among high street banks, for example, the Bank of Scotland has 85 affinity cards, with beneficiaries including the RSPCA, NSPCC and the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust.

Contractual agreements between a bank and charity mean that cardholders must be notified if the arrangement changes or lapses. Cardholders can also find out by how much a particular charity has benefited, something that is not always well publicised except perhaps by the largest groups.

Advertising Standards Authority, 0171-580 5555; The Charity Commission, 01[illegible] 210 4477; The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund (donations) 0990 664422.

Take a charitable line on rates

Banks and building societies are being urged to offer more flexible accounts and better interest rates to charities that bank with them. However, some providers that restrict the number of withdrawals from accounts say they do so to keep down costs.

Even those banks that emphasis their ethical roots, such as the Co-Operative Bank, may not necessarily pay the best interest rates to charities. For example, the Co-Op Bank's investment account pays 4.34 per cent on balances of £500 and above. But that is restricted to a 90-day notice account. For cheque accounts, the rate is just 3 per cent on balances of £1 or more, but charges may be levied.

MoneyFacts, the money information service, prefers investment managers who offer tailor-made accounts for charities. COIF Charity Funds (0171 588 1815) has an instant access deposit account that pays interest of 6.85 per cent gross on sums of £1 or above.

The CafCash Account, run by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) is offering a competitive rate of return (current interest rate: 6.77 per cent) on a minimum balance of £1.

Sue Pavey, CAF Banking and Investment services manager, says: "The account is open to registered charities and organisations with charitable aims. It was launched in 1986 and pays the same rate of interest on sums of £1 and above." CAF has an arrangement with Midland Bank that allows members to deposit cash at branches without charge. It has similar arrangements with banks in Scotland.

The CafCash deposit account does not provide cash withdrawals or overdrafts, so any cheques that might tip the account into the red are not cleared. CafCash also runs a cheque account that charges 20p for each cheque and provides standing orders, direct debits and foreign payments.

CAF has also launched a CafGold fund that has attracted £73 million of charitable money since the start of August. Ms Pavey says: "It is a straight deposit account with no chequebook facility and this allows us to pay higher rates of interest." There is no notice period for transfers of funds to other bank accounts. It is currently paying 6.85 per cent on balances under £2 million and 6.98 on balances over £2 million. CAF's banking service may be contacted on 01732 520033.

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Give and take: it is often difficult to get a good return

If you intend to set up a charity account and need to register officially to have charitable status, call the Charity Commission (0171-210 3000).

Under the Charities Act, you have to keep accounts that may be viewed by the public. The Charity Commission has several leaflets explaining how to set up a charity. There are four main qualifying areas: religion, education, the benefit of society, and charitable causes.

The commission also has information about making donations to charities in the most cost-effective way.

Christine Bayliss, *MoneyFacts* investment editor, says there are a number of good rates for charity accounts now available. She likes the Northern Rock (0500 505000) charity instant access account, which is currently paying 6.2 per cent on balances of £1 and above. Interest is half-yearly.

Market Harborough Building Society (01858 463244) has an instant access account paying 5.9 per cent on sums of £1. Interest is paid yearly.

Similar accounts designed specifically for charities and paying competitive rates on small balances are available from the Nottingham and Saffron Walden Building Societies.

For higher balances, the Ecology Building Society (01535 635933), pays 4.6 per cent yearly on sums between £25 and £50,000, while Marsden Building Society (01282 440500) accepts sums of up to £100,000 and pays a 5 per cent rate of interest, but will open charity accounts only for local residents. Interest is yearly.

An alternative is the Treasurer's Account, from National Savings, launched in September last year. It is available to non-profit organisations with a minimum of £10,000 to invest. It pays 5.5 per cent gross on balances of £10,000 to £24,999 and 5.75 per cent gross on balances from £25,000 to £99,999.

Meanwhile, CAF, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and Charity Forum, is sponsoring the 1997 Charity Annual Report and Accounts Award. Deadline for entries is October 31 and there are prizes of £2,000. Call Nikki White, CAF, on 01732 520074.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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PRUDENTIAL

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Susan Emmett on the importance of organising affairs for heirs

Nothing left to chance when you make a will

LINDA McCARTNEY

Jimi Hendrix died intestate, which can cause family disputes

Jimi Hendrix never did it, George Gershwin did not bother, and it certainly slipped the mind of Pablo Picasso. But they were not alone. Two out of three adults never make a will, according to the Law Society.

Even if your estate is not worth as much as Picasso's £280 million, dying intestate leads to administrative chaos and inevitable family arguments. In some cases only expensive legal action can resolve a disputed estate.

If you do make a will, you can ensure that even your most eccentric wishes are carried out. Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond, left four friends £500 each on the ground that they should "spend the same, within 12 months of receipt in some extravagance".

If you do not make a will, the Government will do it for you. The law only recognises relatives with a direct blood link so your hard-earned money might end up in the taxman's pocket and your friends and family or favourite charities get nothing. Surely that is a far more morbid thought than confronting your own mortality? The Law Society thinks so, which is why it is organising Make a Will Week from October 27 to November 2.

If your estate is straightforward, you may think that making a will is easy. Most high street stationers will sell a DIY pack. All you need to do is fill in the form and save the money you would have spent on a lawyer.

A will has to meet certain legal requirements for it to be valid. For a start, it must be witnessed by two people who will not benefit from it. Unless this is done, the will is worthless. If your will is homemade, it is a good idea to show it to a solicitor to avoid any mistakes. There are strict rules dictating where your money goes if you die intestate:

■ Unmarried couples:
Few people realise that the law does not recognise live-in partners. A couple may have been living together for years, but the surviving partner will get nothing. The money will still go to the next of kin, however distant. The surviving partner could also lose their home, unless the property comes under joint names.

Long-running disputes have arisen from families cutting off the deceased's partner. It is possible to go to court if the surviving partner had been financially dependent on the deceased or they had lived together for more two years before the death. But the legal proceedings are usually long and complicated.

■ Married without children:
It pays to make a will even if you are married. Under intestacy rules, if you have no children, the spouse will get everything up to £200,000. The rest is divided between your spouse and your parents. If your parents are no longer alive, their share will go to your brothers or sisters or their children.

■ Married with children:
Without a will, your spouse will get everything up to £125,000. This seems straightforward if your estate is worth less than that, but what if you have property that is worth more? Under intestacy rules your spouse could be in danger of losing his or her home.

The rest of the money is divided in half. The children will receive half once they are over 18 years old. The other half will go into a trust. Your spouse will receive the income this generates but not the capital, which would eventually go to the children.

■ Tax liability:
If your estate is worth more than £215,000, the threshold for inheritance tax, legal advice is paramount. This may seem a large amount but by the time you count the house, the car and the furniture it is amazing how this threshold disappears. Reducing the value of your estate during your life by making gifts is one way to lessen this tax burden. But this is hardly ideal if you need the money to live on.

The passing of an estate between spouses is exempt from inheritance tax, but leaving it all to your partner will only increase inheritance tax liability when they die. It may be best to siphon off some of your wealth in your will. A good solicitor can draft your will so that your property is distributed in the most tax-efficient way.

■ Appointing a guardian:
If you do have children, this is a good opportunity to discuss related issues such as appointing a guardian. There are no specific rules that govern who takes over the parent's role. This decision is left to the surviving family.

But what happens if relatives are not able to cope with your children? Grandparents may be too old to look after lively teenagers and other close relatives may live miles away. A clause in your will puts everyone's mind at rest, including your children's, who may not want to live with their eccentric aunt and her cat.

You do not have to be rich to make a will, and it certainly will not cost much. The amount it takes to sort out problems caused by inadequate home-made wills is usually greater. Will-writing services, insurance companies, building societies and banks can all help with preparing wills.

A straightforward will costs around £50 and a couple making similar wills would be charged £75. But many solicitors will be offering discounts during Make a Will Week.

After making an appointment to see a solicitor, list the things you would like to leave. Include insurance policies, any property you own as well as treasured possessions. You must also list Premium Bonds, even though they are not transferable.

You must also appoint an executor, who will be in charge of carrying out your wishes after your death. The executor or executors — you can have more than one — can be a beneficiary of your will. Most people choose their grown-up children, a relative or a close friend. But your solicitor can act as executor if you do not know anyone suitable.

Once you have made your will, do not just put it in a drawer and forget about it — children grow up, your financial situation might change. It is important to update your will every three to five years.

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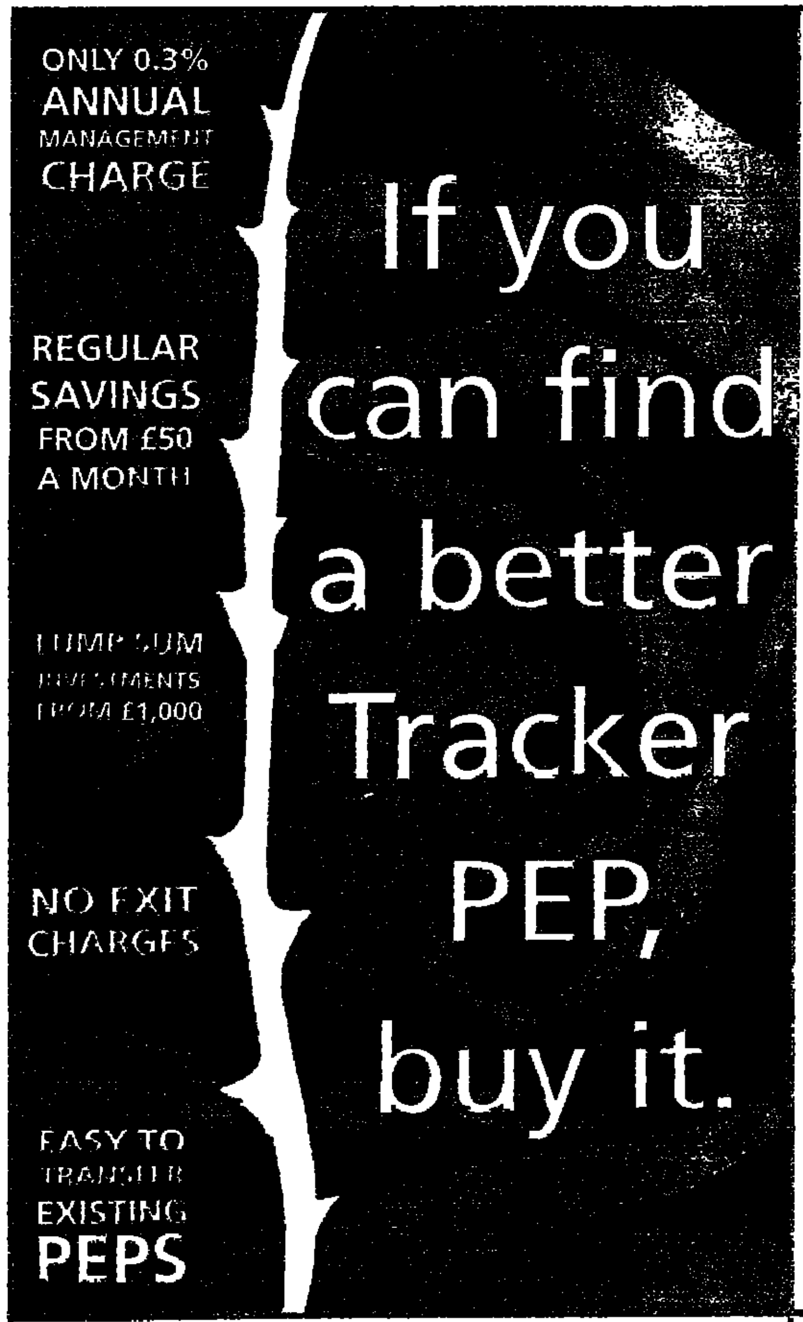
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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

B&B raises rates for investors

Bradford & Bingley Building Society has increased its rates for savers by between 0.1 and 0.45 per cent. The rate changes affect the following accounts: *Instant Access — First Choice*, Postal Instant Access, Postal 30-Day Notice, 120-Day Notice Account and Mutual Bond. The building society *has reaffirmed that its standard* variable mortgage rate of 7.95 per cent will not be increased before January 31, 1998.

■ A guide to with-profit bonds has been produced by Rickman Tooze, the independent financial adviser. An estimated £12 billion is invested in the funds which are offered by leading insurance companies. The free booklet explains how with-profit bonds work, what returns can be expected, how bonus rates are paid, the charges that will be imposed, the possible risks, and the tax advantages of investing. Call 01285 650331 for a copy.

Chartwell Investment Management has also produced a guide on the subject of with-profit bonds. Its booklet offers advice on what an investor should look for (allocation rates, terminal bonus history, commission structure) and assesses the products available *in the with-profit sector*. Chartwell's recommendations based on past performance are included. For a free copy, call 01225 446556.

■ The direct investment arm of Royal & SunAlliance has launched a Pep aimed at investors looking to save small amounts on a regular basis. The Invest On-line Rose Tracker Pep has a 0.3 per cent annual management charge, an initial charge of 2 per cent and no exit fee. The minimum investment is £50 a month or a £1,000 lump sum up to the Pep maximum of £6,000 a year. For further information, call 0500 100333.

■ Age Concern Financial Services has introduced a life assurance plan for older people in conjunction with Commercial Union. Acceptance is guaranteed to anyone between 50 and 85 and a medical is not required. The Age Concern 50-Plus Life Plan is a regular premium *non-profit whole-of-life policy*: premiums are fixed for the full term and it has a 90-day money-back guarantee. Call 0800 330332 for more details.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nationwide BS 0500 302010	InvestDirect	Postal	£1	6.70	Yly
C&G 0800 742437	Inst Transfer	InstantB	£1,000	7.00	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	Direct Access	Postal	£2,500	7.05	Yly
First National BS 0800 558844	Direct Access	PostalB	£5,000	7.45	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Bristol & West 0800 202121	Postal 30	30 day p	£10,000	7.65	Yly
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	POST-tel 40	40 day p	£5,000	7.30	Yly
Coventry BS 0345 665522	Postal 50	50 day p	£5,000	7.35	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	60 Direct	60 day p	£5,000	7.50	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836		5 year	£2,000	7.65	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£2,500	7.65	Yly
Hanley Economic BS 0800 838811		5 year	£1,000	7.60	Yly
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 year	£3,000	7.60	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.64%NC	7.90%N	Nil
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829100	Base Rt Lnkd M/V	1.00%C	12.70%	Nil

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38
Capital One Direct 0800 216252	12.90%	£189.48	£166.54
Alliance & Leic Grp 0990 626262	13.30%	£187.73	£167.56

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only

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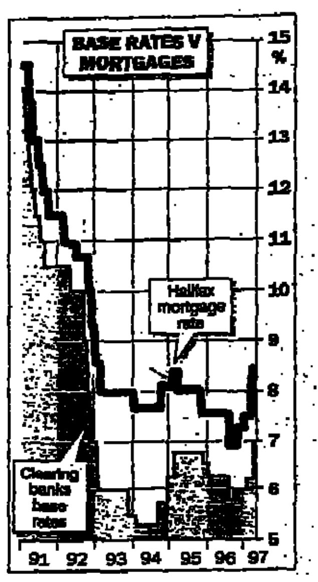
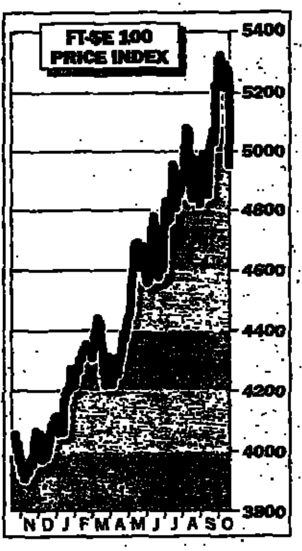
Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





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Investment A/c*ₑ	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500**†	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond* ₑ	6.50	5.20	3.90	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0845 645000
First Opt Bond₄	8.25	5.00	3.75	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
44th Issue Certf‡ₛ	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bonds ₑ	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
11th Ind Linkedf‡ₛ	2.75			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3ₑ	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000ₛ	60day	0645 645000

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, last accs for up to £100 ª Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds . †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ₛGuaranteed when held for 5 years ª0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ ª£100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings ª Taxable but cred in full ª£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply

ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Stalwart ....Level	£ 9,713	£10,791	£12,159
Canada Lf ....Level	£ 9,105	£10,200	£11,688
Standard Lf ....Level	£ 9,044	£10,136	£11,564
Legal & Gen ....Level	£ 9,045	£10,073	£11,367
Sun Lf of Can..........Level	£ 8,988	£10,050	£11,494

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Stalwart ....Level	£8,684	£ 9,528	£10,674
Norwich Un ....Level	£8,490	£ 9,226	£10,315
Canada Life ....Level	£8,397	£ 9,222	£10,422
Prudential ....Level	£8,386	£ 9,205	£10,649
Generali ....Level	£8,156	£ 9,088	£10,369

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Norwich Un ....Level	£8,075	£8,619	£ 9,404
Prudential ....Level	£7,901	£8,445	£ 9,178
Generali ....Level	£7,781	£8,440	£ 9,342
Sun Lf of Can..........Level	£7,838	£8,435	£ 9,577
Equitable Lf..........Level	£7,807	£8,384	£ 9,197

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 684 5000)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at October 23, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.00
	5,000	AIG Life	6.27
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.75
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.05
	5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.35
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.75
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.75
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.40
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.95
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.15
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.90
	3,000	Pinnacle	6.35

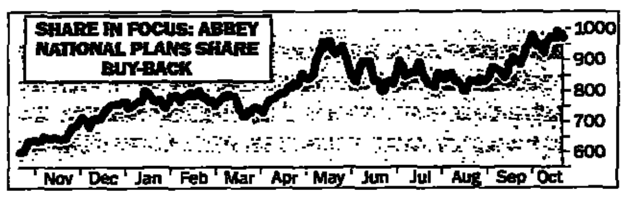
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	122.92	7.590	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	151.96	7.650	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	*13.000%*	*169.85*	*7.654*	*100.20*	*10,000*
Britannia	13.000%	169.85	7.654	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	159.17	7.551	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	151.63	7.749	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	175.86	7.605	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	142.40	7.497	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	168.24	7.504	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	163.91	7.702	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	169.32	7.604	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (30/09-27/03)	9.83750%	120.00	100.00	1,000
First Nat(22/09-20/03)	9.98359%	105.00	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Chelsea 0800 291291	5.39	£20-150k	80	Fixed to 1.8.99
Nationwide 0800 302010	5.75	to £300k	90	2.35% discount for 2 years
Yorkshire 0800 378836	4.95	£25-150k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
Bristol & West 01179 792222	2.90	No max	90	Fixed to 1.11.98

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Leeds & Holbeck 0113 225 7777	1.20	to £180k	95	7% dsc-6 mths, 1% dsc-12 mths
Scarborough 0990 133149	0.99	£15-100k	95	7.24% dsc-6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed - 6 mths, 3% dsc-6 mth
Bristol & West 01179 792222	2.90	No max	90	Fixed at 2.90% to 1.11.98

BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Newbury 01635 43676	4.85	£30-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Mansfield 01246 202055	2.20	£25-250k	90	6% discount-6 mth Further dsc apply
Clay Cross 01246 862120	5.25	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 12 months
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mths, 3% disc 6 mths
Halifax plc 01422 333333	5.45	£25-250k	95	3% disc-30.9.99, .5%overSVR-10.04

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Blay's Guides Ltd. (01753 880482)

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE *Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE* 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	574.90	608.40	-16.90	.
UK Equity	796.40	842.80	-23.60	.
Property	452.20	478.60	+ 4.60	...
Fixed Interest	373.50	395.30	- 4.30	..
Money	279.30	295.60	+ 0.20	...
International	459.90	486.70	-21.10	..
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	217.20	228.70	- 2.50	..
Ethical S4	180.10	189.60	- 0.40	
International S4	229.60	241.70	-10.10	..
Protected Gth S4	130.50	137.40	- 0.70	..
Asian Pacific	169.90	178.90	-23.80	..
European S4	265.60	279.60	- 7.40	.
Prop Fd Ser 4	438.90	462.00	+ 0.30	...
Equity Ser 4	315.40	332.00	- 8.40	...
Man Ser 4	874.10	920.20	-21.90	.
Conv Ser 4	366.90	386.30	+ 0.40	..
Money Ser 4	366.60	385.90	+ 0.40	..
Fixed Int Ser 4	436.70	459.70	+ 0.60	..
American Ser 4	851.10	895.90	-10.90	..
High Inc Ser 4	979.30	1030.90	-26.60	...
Indexed Int Ser 4	253.70	267.10	+ 2.50	..
Japan Ser 4	271.10	285.30	-14.70	.
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	2235.50	2353.10	-53.90	
European Fd Acc	568.20	598.10	-14.20	.
Fixed Int Acc	617.40	650.00	.	...
Gtd Money Acc	373.40	393.00	+ 0.40	
Intl Managed Acc	647.50	681.60	-29.00	.
Int Fxd Int Acc	374.30	394.30	- 4.30	
Japan Fund	236.70	249.20	-15.90	
N American Acc	516.30	543.40	- 5.30	...
Prop Fd Acc	509.20	535.90	+ 0.60	
Multiple Inv Acc	1360.70	1432.30	-32.50	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	304.50	322.10	- 8.00	...
Euro Opportunity	323.80	342.50	- 3.20	...
North Amer Opp	314.40	332.70	- 0.70	...
Far East Opp	190.80	201.90	-14.40	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	189.00	199.00	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	216.30	228.90	...	...
Fixed Int	254.80	269.50	+ 0.20	...
Cash	177.20	187.40	+ 0.20	6.49
Overseas	300.00	317.40	-10.80	..
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	479.90	505.20	-13.20	...
UK Equity	921.00	969.50	-24.20	...
Property	298.50	314.30	..	...
Money Market	280.90	295.60	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	370.10	389.60	+ 0.30	...
Japan	296.20	311.80	-13.80	.
North America	279.80	294.60	- 0.60	.
International	463.50	487.90	-16.60	..
European	414.10	435.90	- 4.00	..
Far East	141.30	148.80	-10.60	..
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Managed	441.20	464.50	-15.80	..
Property	293.80	309.30	+ 0.10	.
Gilt & Fxd Int	294.00	309.50	- 0.20	..
Equity	553.10	582.30	-22.60	.
Cash	239.70	252.40	+ 0.30	
CLife Euro Mgd	515.20	542.50	-23.90	
CLife Intl Fd	384.50	404.80	-21.50	
Managed Fund	942.10	991.70	-33.60	..
Property Fund	593.70	624.90	+ 0.50	.
Equity Fund	1365.20	1437.00	-53.70	..
Gilt Edged Fd	758.40	798.30	- 0.40	..
Deposit Fund	370.20	389.70	+ 0.30	...
Investment Fd	599.30	629.30	-26.70	...
International	612.00	644.20	-34.20	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	190.90	201.00	.	..
Managed Fund	869.40	915.20	-34.00	

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bristol & West (2) ‡	113.20	...	+ 0.10	...
Equity Mgd S1	315.10	331.70	-10.30	...
Managed S1	313.90	330.50	- 8.90	..
Adventurous S1	249.40	262.00	- 8.00	..
Managed (2)	212.80	224.10	- 6.10	...
Eagle/Mid Uts	414.00	429.10	-14.10	0.01
Pension Funds				

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	226.60	238.50	- 7.50	...
-do- Pens	295.90	311.40	-12.30	...
UK Equity	257.40	270.90	- 8.80	...
-do- Pens	319.20	336.00	-13.60	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	204.70	215.40	- 5.30	...
Far East	153.10	161.00	-28.80	...
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA 0117 984 7777				
Equity ‡	1275.30	...	-50.80	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	427.00	450.50	-12.70	...
Fxd Interest Acc	300.00	316.50	- 0.20	...
International Acc	308.70	323.60	- 7.90	...
Managed Acc	287.40	303.20	- 4.70	...
Property Acc	215.30	227.20	+ 0.30	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Index Linked	239.20	251.90	+ 1.80	...
Deposit	219.50	231.10	+ 0.10	...
Managed	388.10	408.70	-13.10	...
Worldwide	135.60	142.80	- 9.40	...
Pen Worldwide	144.90	152.60	-12.40	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE				

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	275.80	290.30	-11.30	..
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	983.70	1035.50	-35.30	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	674.30	723.70	-11.70	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund ‡	693.00	...	+ 0.90	...
-do- Acc ‡	879.70	...	+ 0.80	...
Agricultural Fd ‡	934.40	...	+ 0.50	...

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Definitely not a mutual friend

From Mr Paul Carwardine

Sir, While Nationwide may be welcoming small investors back to the fold (Weekend Money, October 18) it would appear to be less enthusiastic about retaining its existing customers.

On Monday at 3.20 pm I visited my local branch in Chelmsford with the objective of having my passbook updated.

I found all the tills closed and was informed that since the end of September, transactions could be carried out only between 11am and 3pm. Silly me!

I could, of course, use the automatic machines provided using my PIN, apart from the fact that Nationwide has never issued me with such a number.

I find it very difficult to remember the numerous PINs I already possess, or any number for that matter (I once rang directory inquiries when I forgot my home telephone number — to be told it was ex-directory) and prefer to deal in person, especially when paying money into accounts.

This disregard for members' needs was further emphasised by the fact that the next customer was accompanied by a guide-dog and like me had expected to be able to conduct his business at the counter. To be fair to Nationwide, a member of staff operated the ATM for him — but, of course, that meant he had to disclose his PIN to everyone in earshot, which was hardly in the interest of security.

By coincidence, my next visit was to my branch of Lloyds Bank where the tills were open, manned by helpful and polite staff — and would remain so until the close of business.

If the above experience is an example of the advantages of mutual status — the faster Nationwide converts, or is taken over by a bank, the better.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CARWARDINE,
Laurel House,
The Fairways,
Cold Norton,
Chelmsford,
Essex.

...and your chosen subject:- Your own Pin Numbers 1996– 1997

Premium Bonds might look less fun if you knew the National Savings cut

From Mr Robert J. Stradling

Sir, Premium Bonds are a form of gambling that seems popular among your correspondents. As many seem to view Premium Bonds as a form of investment, I wonder whether they have ever taken time to consider whether they are getting value for money.

The odds of winning a prize in November's draw will be 19,000 to 1. Assuming a maximum holding of £20,000 and all prizes won to be £50, this might yield £631.58 a year, or 3.16 per cent net. At 23 per cent tax, this grosses up to 4.1 per cent and at 40 per cent tax the yield would be 5.27 per cent.

Gambling organisations make money by taking a cut. A typical cut might be where a casino would take £100 in bets and pay out £97 in winnings. The more bets, the more slices of 3 per cent the provider of this form of entertainment gets.

In Weekend Money of October 11, the best instant-access rate was quoted as 7.45 per cent gross. Given the above parameters, the National Savings cut is therefore at least 29 per cent. This cut gets worse for standard-rate taxpayers and non-taxpayers (probably the vast majority of Bond holders), making for an even more miserly return.

Whether Bond holders consider this value for money depends on the price they put on the enjoyment factor of the prospect of a big win and the security of the stake/capital being backed by the Government. Premium Bonds are therefore arguably an expensive bet. As ever, it is up to the investor to compare homes for his money. National Savings is a market-led organisation. If customers could see clearly the likely return on Premium Bonds, NS would have to increase the prize rates or face the same consequences as a high street deposit-taker that offered uncompetitive rates.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT J. STRADLING,
20 Livingstone Road,
Daventry, Northamptonshire.

Quirks of tax rates and investors' income

From Mr M. C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, Joe Wignall (Weekend Money Letters, October 18) comments on the tax position of dividend and interest income received by taxpayers paying basic-rate income tax at 23 per cent. Specifically, Mr Wignall queries whether such individuals face an income tax charge on the 3 per cent difference between the 23 per cent basic rate and the 20 per cent rate of tax deducted at source on dividend/interest income.

The answer to this is that a basic-rate income taxpayer does not face such a 3 per cent tax charge. This rather odd effect is achieved as a result of the tax legislation stating that dividend/interest income received by a basic-rate taxpayer is only taxed at 20 per cent, not at 23 per cent; as a result, and assuming that tax at 20 per cent has been deducted at source, no further tax is payable by the basic-rate taxpayer on dividend/interest income.

The position is more complicated if the individual concerned is a higher-rate taxpayer. Broadly, higher-rate tax cuts in when taxable income exceeds £30,145; income received in excess of this will bear tax at 40 per cent. If dividend/interest income pushes an individual into the higher-rate tax band, such income will be taxed at 40 per cent.

The overall effect of this absurdly complicated tax regime is most easily illustrated with three examples, each of an individual in receipt of dividend/interest income (gross) of £2,000. In the case of an individual with taxable income (including the £2,000 dividend/interest income) of less than £30,145, the dividend/interest income will be taxed at 20 per cent. In the case of an individual with taxable income of, say, £31,145, then £1,000 of the dividend/interest income will be taxed at 20 per cent and the other £1,000 at 40 per cent. Finally, in the case of an individual with taxable income of £32,145-plus, the whole of the £2,000 dividend/interest will be taxed at 40 per cent.

One of these days, someone may try to simplify our tax system. However, even with the current advancements in medical science, don't count on it occurring during the lifetime of anyone now living!

Yours faithfully,
M. C. FITZPATRICK
(Tax Partner,
Chantrey Vellacott),
Russell Square House,
10-12 Russell Square,
London, WC1

Swallowing a fund of ethical nonsense

From Mr John A. Leefe

Sir, Yet another survey by a minority single-issue lobby has produced the result intended by those who commissioned it. Why the media swallows and then promotes the findings of weighted question surveys like the one commissioned on pension investment by Ethical Investment Research is one of life's mysteries.

Fortunately for those of us living on a retirement pension, and for the many thousands working in our politically incorrect industries, pension fund managers are made of less gullible stuff. Their current investment of under 1 per cent of UK pension fund assets in ethical funds is therefore most reassuring.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. LEEFE,
3 Sowbury Park,
Chiveley,
Newbury,
Berkshire.

Tax calculations in the wrong key

From the Rev John B. Job

Sir, The most prudent approach to self-assessment is to do the sums oneself, keep a copy, and then request the Revenue to do them — before it is too late, of course. The result in my case was that when its answer came, the balance had switched some hundreds of pounds in its favour, compared with my calculations. It transpired that my figures had been wrongly keyed in at the Revenue's end because two entries had chanced to be identical.

I readily forgive the mistake. But the weakness in the system is that one does not receive in response to one's return a printout matching the configuration of the form one sends in. If this were provided, it would make the discovery of errors much more straightforward.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN JOB,
6 Newhaven Close,
Chesterfield.

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THE WEEK IN MONEY

M&G, one of the oldest fund managers, has written to 250,000 investors to detail a shake-up of its fund range. M&G announced on Monday its intention to focus on growth blue chip stocks alongside small and medium-sized companies. In the biggest change, its Extra Yield unit trust is to be renamed Extra Income and merged with the Equity Income fund to create a £923 million unit trust.

■ ABBEY NATIONAL and NatWest Bank are to be investigated by a data privacy watchdog afer a bundle of confidential client documents, including details of names, addresses, credit cards and bank accounts, were found dumped in a Plymouth street. If the watchdog does uncover a serious breach of data protection rules, Abbey National and NatWest could both face enforcement orders or, in the worst case, unlimited fines.

■ PRUDENTIAL, the UK's biggest pension provider, has been rebuked by its regulator for pensions mis-selling failures. The Securities and Investments Board said the insurer did not act "with due skill, care and diligence" and added that it was "deeply concerned by the cumulative effects of the Prudential's failures". The SIB report comes after the Prudential missed a series of deadlines for dealing with priority cases. Although the SIB has no powers to fine the company, the rebuke was designed to cause maximum embarrassment to Sir Peter Davis, the Prudential's group chief executive.

■ GENERAL ACCIDENT has announced that it expects a 5 per cent improvement in earnings each year, plus annual cost savings of £33 million, after an agreed purchase of Canadian Insurance Group for C$600 million (£265 million). Savings are predicted from 1999 onwards. Canadian General is the 11th-largest property and casualty insurer in Canada. About 600 employees will be made redundant out of a workforce of 2,300. All job losses will be in Canada. The terms of the acquisition include a goodwill write-off of C$440 million, which prompted some analysts to suggest that GA had overpaid.

■ HALF of all homes are selling in less than six weeks and one in seven sells within a week or less, according to Black Horse Agencies' October *Home Report*. This is the fastest rate for two years and a result, the estate agency said, of a shortage of properties on the market. The average property is now fetching £79,000, up from £74,650 a year ago.

DIRECT LINE RATES

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Direct Line Instant Access Account	
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£1–£4,999	5.55%
£5,000–£9,999	5.90%
£10,000–£24,999	6.65%
£25,000–£49,999	6.75%
£50,000–£99,999	6.90%
£100,000+	7.00%
MORTGAGE RATE	
Direct Line Standard Variable Mortgage Rate	
VARIABLE RATE	7.59%
APR	7.8%

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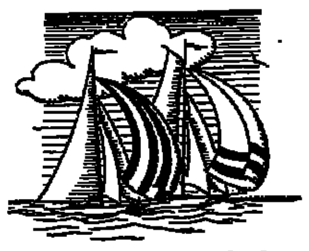

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LOOK AT THE RETURN

Balance	Annual % Gross	Monthly Interest % Gross	Monthly Interest % Gross CAR
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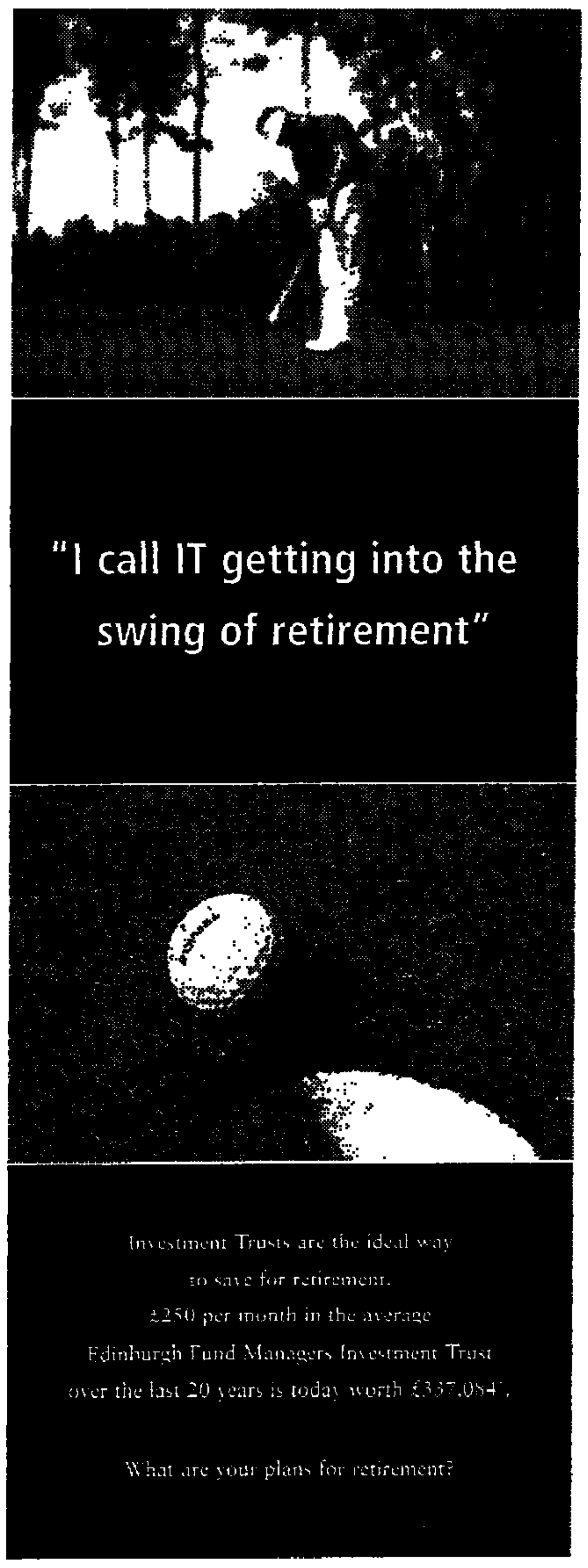

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M&G holders miss the FTSE express

Many investors would have been better off by hitching a ride on a tracker fund, says **Gavin Lumsden**

Three years of comprehensive poor performance and one investment review later and M&G, once king of the fund management industry, is finally rubbing the sleep from its eyes. This week the company wrote to 250,000 unit-holders with plans to shake up a fund range which had, over the years, become fatally predictable.

Financial advisers have long complained about the uniformity of M&G funds which has been caused by the company's dogmatic adherence to "value" investing. This approach led M&G to spurn FTSE 100 growth stocks in favour of high-yielding small to medium-sized manufacturers.

Although for many years this served M&G well, in the low-inflation blue chip boom of the 1990s it has proved a disaster. Nearly all of M&G's 14 UK unit trusts have slumped to the bottom of the performance league tables, prompting many investors to switch to more up-to-date and flexible fund managers.

This week Michael McLintock, managing director of the M&G Group since February, put on the sackcloth and ashes of the penitent and confessed that the company had got stuck in its ways. He announced that the company was cutting its UK range to 12 trusts and was renaming and reorientating many of the funds to offer investors a wider range. Among the changes is a proposal to turn the M&G General Trust, the oldest UK unit trust, into the M&G Blue Chip Fund, a turnaround that would have been unheard of a generation ago.

These changes follow an internal review which has seen M&G strengthen its investment process. M&G fund managers will no longer focus exclusively on high yields when selecting stocks but will now consider companies' turnover growth, market share and cashflow before buying their shares.

However, Mr McLintock insisted that M&G was not abandoning its traditional values but would continue to adopt a contrarian, research-based, long-term philosophy. He pointed out that M&G funds had started to recover in the past three months as income stocks came back into favour after a long period of unpopularity. However, the company was not relying merely on an external technical correction.

He said: "Ever since I joined here six years ago I have always felt that the fund range needed updating. I don't see why our approach cannot be applied across the full range of investment funds."

The development of the "full range" is most clearly seen in M&G's income stable. Whereas previously there have been four main funds all offering investors high yields, in future there will be three funds offering a range of yields.

At the high-income end, the Extra Yield unit trust will continue to aim to yield 50 per cent more than the All-share (ie. 4.5 per cent) but will be renamed Extra Income. Next year, if unit-holders approve, it will be merged with Equity Income to create a £923 million fund.

M&G is also hoping to merge its little-used Trustee fund with the huge £1.2 billion Dividend unit trust. This will have its yield target reduced from 50 per cent to 33 per cent above the All-share. Lastly, the High Income fund will be renamed simply Income and will run at a 15 per cent yield above the All-share.

Lowering the target yields on two of the Income funds will allow M&G to invest in a wider range of stocks, which should allow it to achieve a more consistent performance. However, investors in both funds will continue to receive the same level of income because M&G is switching the way it takes its annual management fee. In future the 0.75 per cent charge will be taken from capital.

M&G has made similar modifications to its growth and income funds by altering the extent to which they invest in smaller companies. Again the theme of the reforms has been to reduce and vary volatilty in the funds to offer investors a real choice.

One of the more significant changes is on the General unit trust. Previously this fund could invest in all UK-quoted companies as well as some overseas equities. Under Blue Chip, its new name, it will invest exclusively in FTSE 100 companies. This will give M&G investors a taste of the performance that they have been missing.

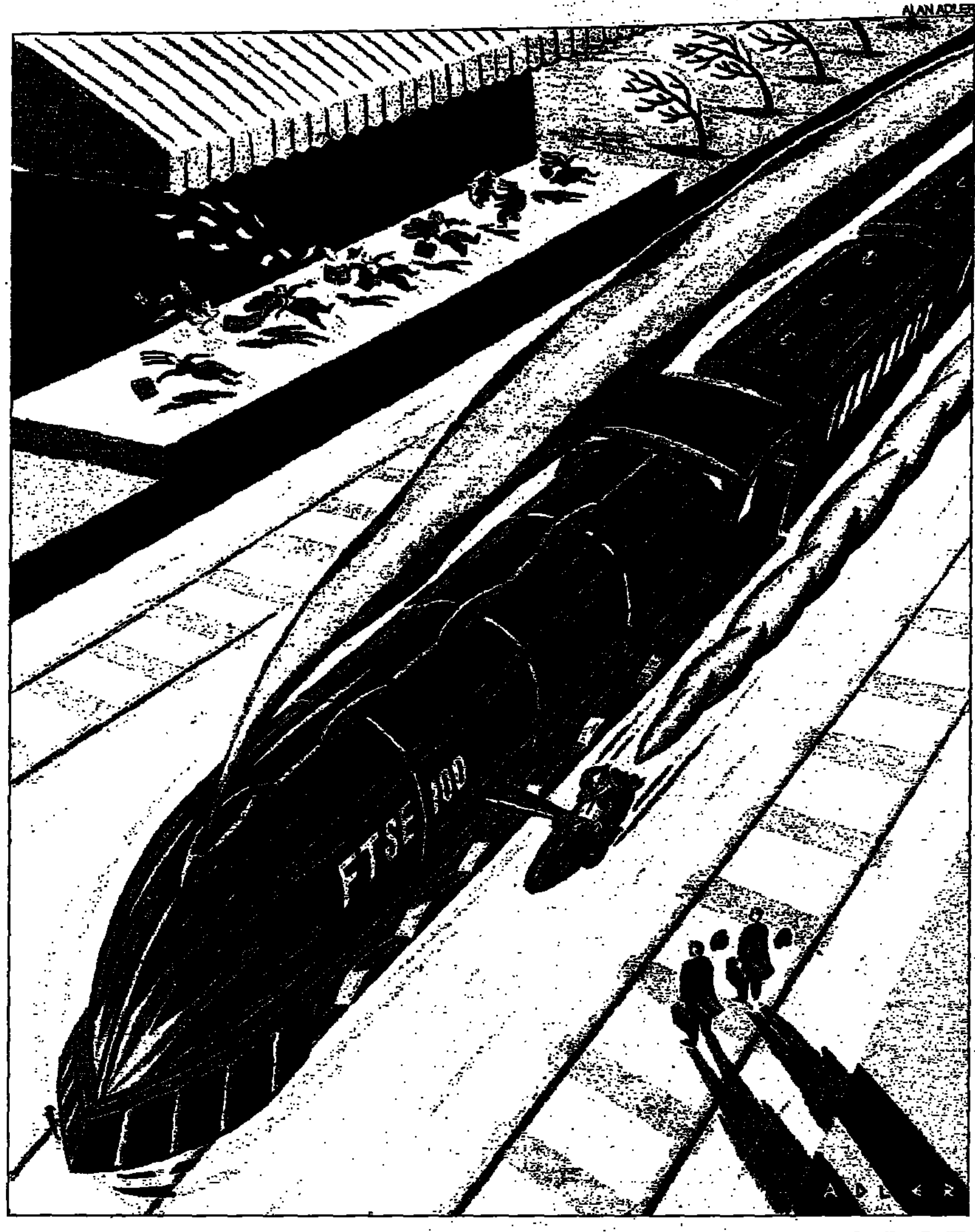
The All-share beat now goes to Second General, which loses its unoriginal title and is renamed UK Equity. There is no change to M&G Smaller Companies.

M&G's reforming zeal seems to have faltered on its pure capital growth funds. Certainly there is less upheaval, with both Recovery and Capital, the special situations trust, staying the same. Compound Growth, however, becomes UK Growth, and Midland & General becomes British Opportunities. This reflects the fact that British Opportunities is more risky and should offer greater returns than its more staid counterpart.

On its international funds M&G has mostly limited itself to dropping the word General from fund names. For example, M&G American & General becomes M&G American. In the case of the Japan unit trust, however, the ommission of General signals that the fund will no longer invest in the Pacific Basin.

Financial advisers have welcomed the overdue changes but are cautious about recommending the funds until they see an improvement in performance. Tim Cockerill, investment director of Whitechurch Securities in Bristol, said: "I think they had to do this. The world has moved on and this is M&G catching up. However, it's one thing announcing the changes, but you've got to see things happen."

ALAN ADLER



Shopping around in the household services sale

Five kilos of potatoes and what is today's special offer on gas? Water, light and heat may not yet be stacked on supermarket shelves but for UK householders, just as for US consumers, the chance to shop around for household services has arrived.

From November 1, for example, some 2.5 million domestic gas users in Scotland and the North East will be able to choose from 11 gas companies licensed as suppliers. The change should spell savings of about £10 a month on gas bills says Ofgas, the industry regulator.

Deregulation in the gas market began in April 1996 in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset, followed earlier this year by Avon, Dorset, Sussex and Kent. Out of 1.5 million domestic gas users in these areas, more than 515,000 have left British Gas. Average gas bills are estimated to have fallen 24 per cent between 1986 and 1996. On top of which, says Ofgas, deregulation has seen companies undercutting BG's standard tariff by up to 20 per cent — a £65 average annual saving.

Sixteen gas companies are currently licensed as suppliers in the UK. It is expected that all remaining areas of the UK will have been opened up to competition by June 1998, with Greater London and Surrey among the last. In an attempt to reassure customers in the new areas, Ofgas has drawn up marketing guidelines which it proposes to include as a licensing condition. The move comes after complaints in the early days of deregulation about high-pressure sales tactics and confusing marketing, which meant that some householders signed up to change supplier without understanding what was involved.

Electricity companies are also preparing for big changes. From next April, the UK's 26 million domestic electricity users can shop around. Four companies are in the first deregulation — Eastern Electricity, Yorkshire Electricity, Seeboard and Manweb. This means initially each group will be able to compete for business in others' markets. Deregulation across the remaining regions will begin later next year. Domestic electricity charges have fallen 15 per cent since 1990. Professor Stephen Littlechild, of Offer, the electricity industry regulator, has already unveiled 1998-2000 final pricing plans.

If accepted by the electricity companies, it will mean electricity bills cut by £24 on average. These final price proposals will, says Offer, give price restraints in transition to full deregulation.

Competition in the phone market is much further advanced. BT may still be the largest supplier but now has plenty of competitors, as the telecoms market becomes increasingly international, and draws in global players. Alongside operators such as Mercury, part of Cable & Wireless, the large multinational cable television groupings have been making their mark developing franchised areas across the UK offering both cable TV and low-cost phone services. BT estimates its phone charges have fallen in real terms by 50 per cent since privatisation in 1984. Price promotions have played their part. BT's Friends and Family offer has signed up nearly 13 million phone users. The offer cuts the cost of calls to ten nominated numbers by 10 per cent, and is available free of charge, though initially when it was launched in 1994 there was a £5 charge.

However, consumers have had less to cheer about water rates. Since privatisation in 1989, water bills have risen 88.2 per cent including inflation, and by 34.6 per cent in real terms. Lower prices are in the pipeline, says Ian Byatt, Director-General of Water Services. But customers will have to wait until 2000 before seeing how efficiency savings and lower costs translate into lower water bills.

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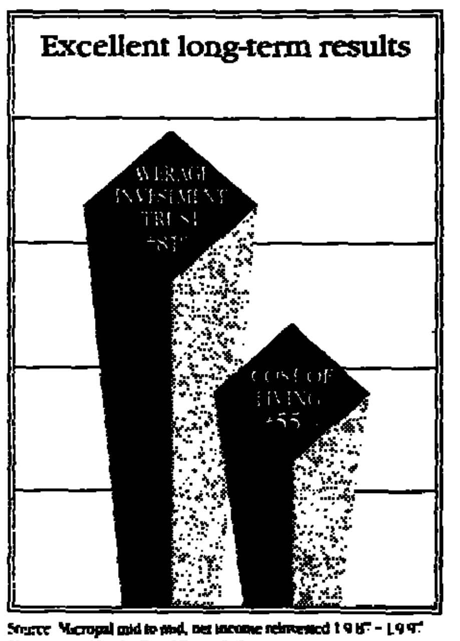

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Following the July 1997 Budget the future of PEPs is uncertain. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced that a new tax-privileged vehicle, the Individual Savings Account (ISA), will be introduced during 1999. The current tax benefits for PEPs will continue until 5th April 1999 and the Government is now working on proposals for ISAs and the conversion of PEPs, TESSAs and other types of savings into ISAs.

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Concern is growing over best-buy advice, says **Patrick Collinson**

Consumer Panel calls independents to book

How "independent" is independent financial advice? IFAs trumpet their skill at picking the right financial product for clients from the multitude available, but an official report out this week highlights growing alarm about restrictive and potentially commission-related "best-buy panels".

A best-buy, or best-advice, panel is a recommended list of products, typically put together by a large firm of independent financial advisers, or a network of smaller IFAs. What is causing concern is the extent to which they represent not what is best for the client, but what is best for the broker's commission.

Best-buy panels are clothed in secrecy. Few IFAs will reveal a list of which companies and products are on their panels, possibly fearing scrutiny of their choices. The common reason given is that best-buy panels represent expensive research, which they do not wish to share with competitors.

The product providers — largely life insurance and Pep companies — are desperate to gain entry to the best-buy lists for the guaranteed sales they deliver. Up to a half of all product sales by IFAs are now via best-buy lists, and no product provider will openly criticise what are, in effect, their biggest customers. But in private the talk is of commission negotiations, which can tip a perfectly good product off a so-called best-buy panel to make way for one carrying a higher commission.

This week the Personal Investment Authority Consumer Panel, an independent body made up of a number of consumer and voluntary organisations, highlighted its concerns about the quality and impartiality of best advice panels. It recommended that clients be warned about the existence of a best-buy panel, that advisers should be allowed to go "off-panel" in their recommendations, and that there should be no set number of product providers on a best-buy list.

It also called for effective Chinese Walls, forcing product research and commission negotiations to be completely separated, to avoid best-buy panels simply reflecting which company is paying the best commission.

Barbara Saunders, the Consumer Panel chairman, said: "It's very difficult to get clear answers about the extent to which commission is influencing product recommendations. Advisers say that commission is not part of the equation, but we are not entirely convinced that that is always the case. We would be happier if there was much more openness about the criteria advisers are using in best advice panels."

Bradford & Bingley, the only remaining major high street building society which promotes independent financial advice, confirms that it operates a best-buy list. Its list reveals that a customer seeking pensions advice from B&B will be offered a product from one of only six pension companies on its list, while the endowment choice is limited to just three providers. Yet Barbara Saunders says that she would expect a best-buy list to have many more than five providers.

Lynn Coleman, Bradford & Bingley marketing manager, robustly defends the best-buy panel. She says B&B spends more than £100,000 a year researching products for the best deals and updates its best-buy list regularly.

But Roddy Kohn, of Kohn Cougar, the Bristol-based advisers, said: "We don't operate a panel. We don't take the product first and see how the customer will fit into it, but genuinely tailor-make each piece of product advice to suit an individual's particular circumstances."

Mr Kohn, who is also a PIA board member, agrees that clients should be told of the existence of the panels. "If someone goes to an IFA for total freedom and total choice, then they should be told if what they are being offered is straight off the panel," he said.

Another adviser said that a choice of just three to five providers for a product category was too low. Roderic Rennison, of Robson Rhodes, who represents a group of accountancy-based IFAs, said that although his company operates a best-buy panel, there are typically seven to nine products in each category. "I would be surprised if a panel had less than five or six providers on it," he said.

Mr Kohn is calling for a maximum commission agreement, in which commission on product categories such as pensions and endowments would be standardised. This was tried out in the late 1980s, but promptly abolished by the Office of Fair Trading as "anti-competitive."

A man alone: advisers' best-buy lists may not be all they seem

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The healthy option for self-employed

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This week Going Alone looks at permanent health insurance (PHI). PHI policies will normally pay up to 60 per cent of your gross monthly income if you are unable to work. Taking a policy out is not hard and can be as cheap or expensive as you want, depending on how soon you want the payments to start after you stop work. However, proving your income if you are newly self-employed could be tricky.

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Radical review gets 1,000 replies

Government has been inundated with advice on the new stakeholder pensions, says **Caroline Merrell**

The Government has received more than 1,000 responses to a pensions review it hopes will deliver a radical solution to the problem of provision in the decades ahead.

The life assurance industry, plus all financial institutions with an interest in savings and investment, was invited to contribute during the two-month consultation period. The conclusions will form part of a Green Paper to be published at the beginning of next year.

In announcing the review, the Government urged the industry to leave no stone unturned. It wanted every avenue for the future of pensions explored, against a background of preserving the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps), and introducing a new concept of a "stakeholder" pension. This would be introduced to ensure that all members of society would be included in the new pensions regime, even those who did no paid work, or were on very low wages.

While the Government considers the responses, DSS officials are putting together detailed proposals about the structure of "stakeholder" pensions themselves. Last week the DSS was still unable to give even a rough idea of what "stakeholder" actually meant.

Some within the industry believe the Government will have to include some form of compulsion in its plans, while others believe this will be almost impossible to enforce. Many are concerned about the future viability of Serps. The fact that contributions from those entering the scheme have to be used to pay pensions of those retiring means that as the population ages, there will be less money to support more people. The DSS reiterated last week that the Government was committed to maintaining Serps.

In its review submission, the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF), that represents hundreds of pension fund managers, claims that even the basic state pension is not particularly efficient. The basic pension, currently worth about £62 per week, will be roughly worth half what it is today. The NAPF claims the present basic pension system is wasteful. It says: "This is because it provides too little for the poor and provides money that is not strictly needed for the rich. We therefore believe in a targeted basic state pension, but without the disadvantages of post-retirement means-testing."

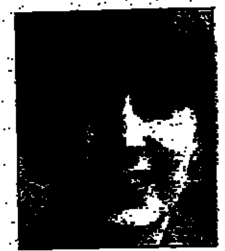
Controversially, the NAPF believes Serps is unlikely to be an efficient method of delivering pensions. It says: "Our view is that the accrual of Serps should cease for those under the age of 50 and existing benefits should be preserved and indexed."

The NAPF is also keen to preserve and extend the benefits of occupational schemes, but believes those who do not have a company scheme should put 10 per cent of their wages in a stakeholder plan. It adds: "Modelling has shown that with total employee/employer contributions of 10 per cent, a high proportion of individuals could look forward to an adequate income from the stakeholder pension." The NAPF thinks 10 per cent contributions would produce a pension equivalent to 50 per cent of final salary.

Legal & General, in its submission to the Government, is against compulsion. "The new system should be voluntary not compulsory. Our own research shows that there is now widespread public acceptance that the State cannot provide generous pensions in future, all that is needed to galvanise those feelings into actions," it says. L&G wants the basic state pension privatised, to help to boost the pensions of the low paid. It also wants stakeholder pensions easily transferable.

Pearl wants the stakeholder pension made up of a national insurance element, some personal contributions and some automatic life cover with some premium paying flexibility, with premiums continued to be paid if customers lose their jobs.

INSIDE



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WEEKEND MONEY

GUIDE

Saving for Your Future

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

More fireworks over Hong Kong

ANAT GIVON

The Hong Kong stock market fell a total of 12 per cent this week, substantially cutting the value of the £5 billion held by UK investors in Far Eastern unit trusts.

The fall, triggered by the currency turmoil in other Asian countries, is the first of the shocks predicted by many fund managers after the handover of the colony to the Chinese at the end of June.

At one point during the week the market had dropped 16 per cent, the biggest fall since the October 1987 crash. Other stock markets around the world fell on the back of the collapse. However, some recovery seemed on its way yesterday with the Hong Kong market up 700 points.

At the time of the handover, some in the investment community said the Hong Kong stock market was bound to be volatile. The source of volatility was expected to be the Chinese Government — any hint of a return to hardline communism would have a big impact on share prices. None predicted that Hong Kong would suffer from the same problems that have hit Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. The currencies of all three have been devalued in the wake of wave after wave of currency speculation in the region.

The fact the Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the US dollar has been central to economic stability for the colony. According to fund managers, UK investors looking at losses on their Hong Kong trusts should take heart from the pledge by the Chinese that it plans to keep the currency peg in place. Devaluing the currency would substantially cut the value of Hong Kong shares in sterling. If the pattern of the other Asian countries were followed, then a devaluation would almost certainly be followed by further falls in stock prices.

However, the cost of keeping the currency pledge in place will almost certainly be higher interest rates. Any increase in interest rates will hit both the commercial and residential property market. The performance of about 40 per cent of the companies in the Hang Seng index is directly related to the property market. The other big companies in the index are the banks and companies that reap most of their profits from China, the so-called red chips. The banks will also be hit by any rise in interest rates, while many fund managers have had concerns about the valuations of the red chips for some time.

Hugh Young, managing director of Aberdeen Asset Management (Asia), said that problems for UK investors with holdings in Asia had been exacerbated because many investment houses had switched their investments into Hong Kong believing it to be immune to the problems that are affecting the other areas of the region.

He pointed out that the peg meant the country could keep interest rates down even though headline inflation was high. He said: "For the last five years, money has been virtually free in Hong Kong." He felt the outlook for the market was rocky in the short term.

CAROLINE MERRELL

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THE TIMES
WEEKEND

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 1997

Elton John: Why I love my garden

The singer explains how gardening captured his heart and why he has turned 30 acres of Berkshire into his most prized possession

On a sweltering summer's day last year, Sir Roy Strong drove through the gilded gates of Elton John's country mansion, up the stately avenue of chestnuts, around a pond, and past an [illegible]-century orangery with a gold-leaf ceiling, to inspect the Italian garden.

Elton, whose record *Candle in the Wind* has just become the world's best-selling single, ousting Bing Crosby's *White Christmas*, was waiting in the drawing room of Woodside, Old Windsor, where he had had thrown open the French windows. The sun was streaming through and there, in front of them, was the new balustraded terrace Sir Roy had designed, leading on to his box parterre with statues. "We threw our arms around each other in the drawing room and danced for joy," Sir Roy recalls. "There is an enthusiasm and a delight about Elton and his garden which is infectious."

Elton had asked him to design an Italian garden on the advice of the late fashion designer Gianni Versace. He says: "I asked Sir Roy, who had designed Gianni's garden in Como, to do it because of their friendship," he explains. "The Italian gardens were done very quickly, starting in January and finishing in April."

Elton's love of gardens goes back to his childhood: "My grandfather died when I was five and my grandmother, Ivy, eventually remarried a man called Horace Sewell, who had one leg — he lost the other in the First World War. He was the first person I knew who was crazy about gardening. He worked for a gardening firm in Pinner and was a most amazing gardener, a real dahlia man. Besides our garden, which he loved, Horace had a couple of allotments and he grew incredible flowers: roses; his beloved dahlias, which he used to exhibit at the local agricultural show every year; chrysanthemums, which I don't particularly care for; sweet peas and various vegetables. My grandmother Ivy always loved gardening too, and was a marvellous gardener. So they were both extremely influential.

"I really care about the seasons and watching things grow. After all, flowers and plants are such an integral part of human life. In the house where I was born in Pinner Hill Road, we had a beautiful garden and we always had a mass of flowers in the house throughout my childhood. Even though the gardens of my youth were small and suburban, they were invariably pretty. As a kid, you're always made to mow the lawn. I didn't mind mowing, but weeding I hated. I've always loved gardens and I've always loved flowers but I

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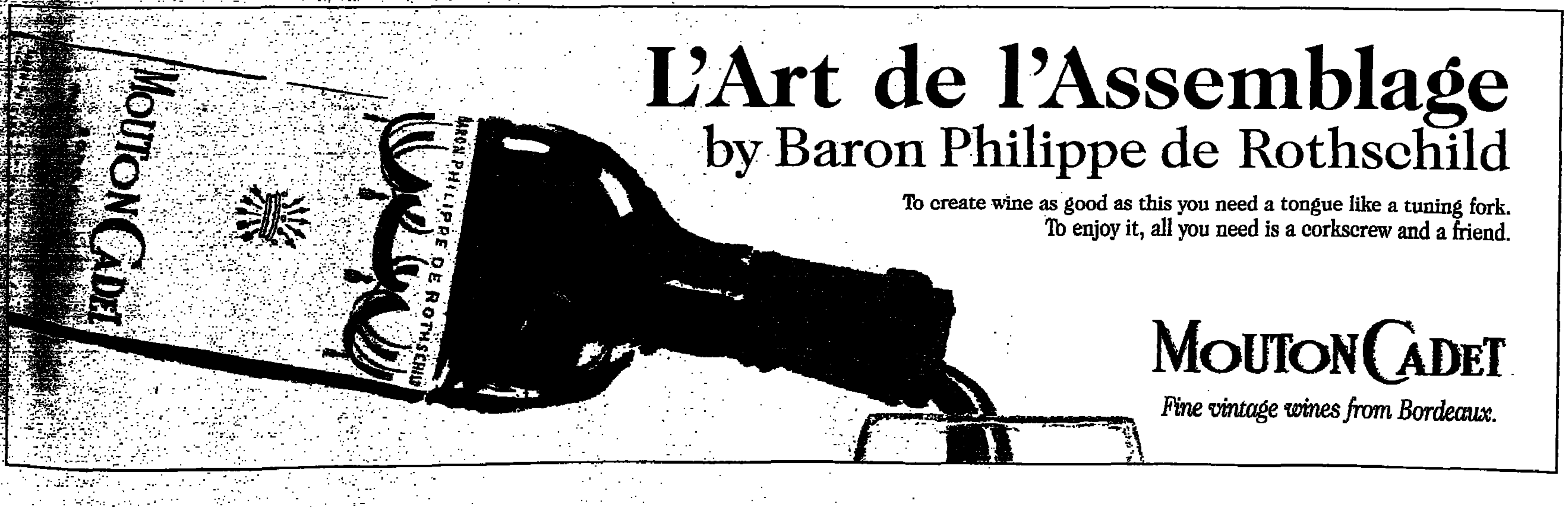

L'Art de l'Assemblage
by Baron Philippe de Rothschild

To create wine as good as this you need a tongue like a tuning fork.
To enjoy it, all you need is a corkscrew and a friend.

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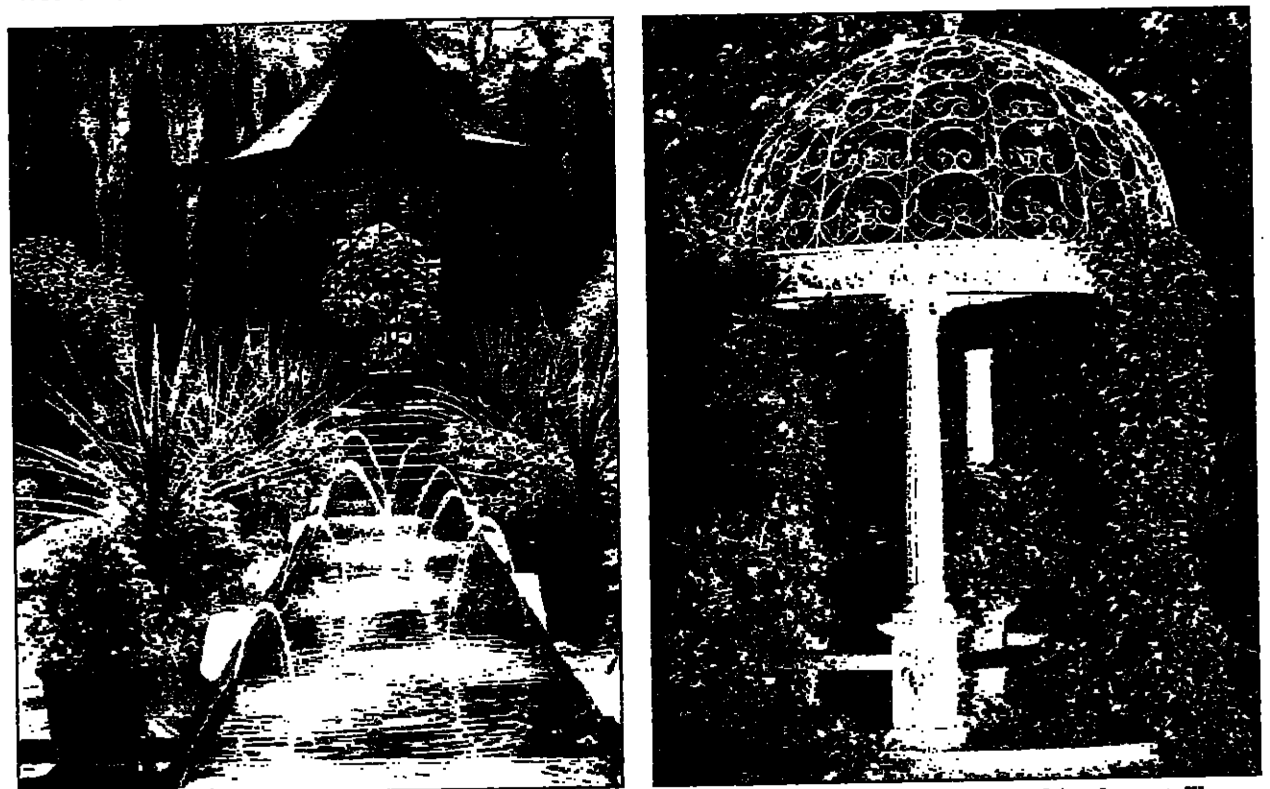
Woodside, reflected in the ornamental lake and guarded by marble statuary, is surrounded by lawns and a camellia glade



Treasures: a wooden gazebo and fountains (left), and an 18th-century gazebo with a grey-green cupola and stone pillars

Talking point: an old red telephone box with a sylph-like female statue, garlanded with pink camellias, as a caller

Continued from page 1

haven't got green fingers."

Elton is particular about his flowers: "There are certain ones which I simply can't abide — chrysthanthemums, which remind me of death and which I absolutely refuse to have in my hotel rooms. I loathe baby's breath and I'm not very fond of carnations. I can't stand them in a vase or on their own, and I can't believe men actually wear them in their buttonholes. The only place where they are pretty, and should remain, is in a garden."

Have flowers influenced his music? "I can't say that they have — in any way other than having them around when I work out a melody."

He likes vegetables, too. "My vegetable garden, in which everything is organically grown, is just fabulous. Everything is healthy and tastes better. And as for our pumpkin that won third prize in horticultural show, I've never seen a bigger pumpkin in my life — it weighed 170lb. I was so proud.

"When you have a garden this size, you have to have enough people caring for it. Charlie, our head gardener, who has been with us for years, is very knowledgeable. We have five extremely good, full-time gardeners, which I think is absolutely necessary. We cut roses, gladioli, sweet peas, sweet-william, peonies, yellow daisies, dahlias and scabious from the potager and garden, which is lovely."

Elton's gardens and woodland at Woodside, which stretch for more than 30 acres, are treasured beyond most of his possessions. "I love coming home to this house," he says. "It gives me a sense of peace. When I go on tour people often say to me, 'How can you bear to leave Woodside?' I tell them the only way I can is knowing I can come back to it. I go through these gates, knowing I'm away for three or four months and think, 'God, how much I long to get back'. When I do, I see the garden changing — there's always something magical happening here.

"Woodside is the hub of my soul probably: the centre of my life. My other houses — in London, Atlanta and the south of France — are like appendages to the tree."

About six years ago, Elton asked the Prince of Wales's septuagenarian garden designer Rosemary Verey to help him create something special. "I love nooks and crannies in gardens. Rosemary Verey designed two English cottage gardens at Woodside, one of which has a porcelain pathway. They are very magical and special places for me. She placed two seats in them and I love to sit there contemplating in the summer time, surrounded by huge hollyhocks, globe thistles and drifts of forget-me-nots."

Mrs Verey is delighted by Elton's enthusiasm: "He loves the final effect, he really does," she trills. "I feel sure that he walks around his garden as much as he can. He loved all the plants that he remembered as a child, such as lupins, tulips and delphiniums.

"One of the first borders I did was all in rainbow colours. I call it the rainbow border. In fact, when he invited me to his fancy-dress birthday party last year, I went as the rainbow border." Mrs Verey also planted a scented garden and an 18th-century garden. "I have enjoyed walking round the garden with Elton. I always think Elton is actually a genius. In the wood there is a red pillar box as well as the telephone box. And there is Daisy the Dinosaur he was given by Paul McCartney. Daisy was in the middle of the lawns, but was removed by helicopter to the woods. If you walk past the dinosaur at night, the eyes light up."

Sir Roy Strong remembers a railway carriage in the middle of a lawn. "Elton asked me what he should do with it. 'Well, I should leave it where it is,' I said.

"There is a kind of beguiling eccentricity to the garden. His enthusiasm is both guided and misguided but it has a warmth. He has an original streak but it is totally untrained. There is nothing wrong with that, but Gianni [Versace] was working on it. Elton is a most sweet and affectionate person. At his birthday, when he went round all the tables, I got up and kissed him on both cheeks."

The admiration is mutual. "People like Sir Roy Strong can teach you so many things," Elton says. "And Rosemary's a sensational woman. She's incredibly energetic, never stops... I don't know how she does it. She's just a wonderful creature. I adore her." Nevertheless, Elton's decision to bring in the Italian garden did not go down well with Mrs Verey, since one of hers had to be flattened. "The only logical place you could have it near the house, and at the same time reach into the field to get the right perspective, was where Rosemary had planted the beautiful white garden," Elton explains.

"It was a wrench, because I didn't want to get rid of her garden, so we shifted it over, and now it will have to grow all over again. Already the white flowering roses, one of my favourites, are flourishing.

"The Italian garden, with its mass of scarlet geraniums surrounded by boxwood, is very striking because you can go and look at the house from the avenue of trees leading to the obelisk and the house looks better than before."

Mrs Verey's disappointment is palpable. Although she would never admit it publicly, she clearly feels that an Italian Classical garden is not quite the thing to go with a postwar mock Georgian house. "My initial feeling was that I got upset. But for goodness sake, it's not my garden, it's his."

Sir Roy is diplomacy itself, although there is a sense that he is not fanatical about Mrs Verey's cottage gardens being attached to a house of this size. "She was very sweet. She sent me a letter saying how nice the Italian garden looked when it was finished."

Like many moneyed individuals, Elton "likes the instant," says Sir Roy. And if a whim such as an Italian garden takes him, so be it.

Elton says: "Apart from a few trees, this garden is only six years old. When I had the house redone, we flattened everything and basically started again. You have to be very, very patient. It'll take a long time for it to grow and evolve, but one of the joys of having a new garden like this is that every year you see it blossom; it grows fuller and you can watch it mature.

"Down by the monkey tree near the Orangery we have just planted some Japanese maples. Having witnessed the most amazing autumn I have ever seen in Atlanta, the most richly beautiful of all the seasons I think, and seen how that red colour changes, I came home with a special urge to plant some. So that is another special nook I love.

"We probably spend more money on trees than anything else, but it is so beautiful to plant things like my favourite oaks, as well as weeping willows, magnolias and the big catalpa [Indian bean tree] on the front lawn, and to watch things grow and prosper.

"The nice thing now is that I get up at seven o' clock in the morning, I see the sun rise, and notice how beautiful it is here first thing in the morning; how peaceful the cows look in the fields in the summertime."

● *Adapted from* Elton John's Flower Fantasies: An Intimate Tour of his House and Garden, *by Caroline Cass (Weidenfield & Nicholson, £18.99).*

Photographs by
ANDREW TORT

Above: an indoor statue draped with roses, lilies and ornamental cabbages, all entwined with vine leaves and ivy. Right: Elton's shoes topped with cyclamens

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

A satirical walk with *BILL BRYSON*

READERS are invited to a forum with the bestselling author Bill Bryson, when he will read extracts from his gripping new book, *A Walk in the Woods*, giving accounts of his experiences along the longest footpath in the world, the Appalachian Trail.

The trail promised Bryson endless days of walking and the chance to turn his satirical eye on his native America.

The forum on Tuesday, November 4, will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50) include £2 off the price of *A Walk in the Woods* (Doubleday, £16.99).

Please send me .... ticket(s) at £10 each (£7.50 concessions) for The Times/Dillons Bill Bryson Forum on Tuesday, November 4, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1

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A day in the life of The Ivy

A.A. Gill clocks in for a double shift at the restaurant where London's elite wine, dine and clinch deals

HENRY BOURNE

In the kitchen of The Ivy, the quest for perfection is relentless. It is a never-ending ritual of tasting and seasoning, with the ultimate aim of pleasing some of the most famous palates in London

A regular haunt of the rich, the famous and the beautiful people, The Ivy is one of the hardest restaurants in London at which to get a booking. Those who succeed tend to be from a certain background: media, theatrical and well-connected types. A busy day at The Ivy is, as might be expected given its staff and its clientele, a drama all of its own.

6.45am: The day begins. This kitchen looks like the engine room of a beached battleship, all iron and steel pipes and ducts, thick and corrugated, worn rough and smooth.

The commis chef puts a pot, big enough to boil a small missionary, on to the wide burner and chucks in skeleton segments of bones two-handedly. This cauldron will simmer and bubble all day until the bones are bleached dry, making stock, the fuel of traditional kitchens — sticky, meaty, chameleon goodness that is the base for soups, sauces and glazes.

7.15am: The day's first delivery: bags of potatoes, boxes of squash, carrots, onions, beans.

8.00am: Breakfast. Bacon sandwiches for the kitchen, sliced white, chin-dribbling, eaten standing. The first Black Suit arrives. A front-of-house manager, he hurries through the dining room turning on lights.

Over by the hellish deep fat fryer, a big chef takes a small onion bhaji, fries it and presses it, fries it again and takes it to the sous-chef to taste.

"Not enough salt".

He gives it to me to taste. "Not enough salt".

"Better put some more salt in it then."

9.00am: The Ivy is having a problem with lunch. It's not that tables might be unoccupied, but most of the large tables have been given to regulars.

The margin for profit in a restaurant, even one as popular as this, is measured in single figures, and a table for four with two people sitting at it is as big a waste as the kitchen dropping a whole goose liver down the waste disposal unit. What they want is a couple of sixes.

9.30am: Mitchell, the restaurant manager, arrives already dressed in his suit, ploughing back and forth across the restaurant like the captain's cutter, checking, checking. Service is all in the detail.

10.00am: The sous-chef bustles past a mill of waiters to a white plastic board and writes "*Fish of the day*" with a felt pen. "Swordfish — no nuts, no garlic".

Mitch swings through the restaurant again, checking Worcester sauce, mustard — English and French — Tabasco for oysters and steak tartare and ketchup for whatever you like.

11.30am: Mitch calls the waiters, now changed into in their black uniforms, to a pre-lunch briefing. The bookings are complete.

"Table One", Mitch says, "Harry Clorex and one guest. Mr Clorex is a literary agent."

And so it goes.

"Table Thirty's got a plane to catch. Twelve will have liver well done, but no bacon. Watch that India Puce doesn't have to pass Perdita Dose — they're both up for the same part."

Media's movers and shakers launch countless schemes behind these doors, left, and right, the catch of the day

12.00pm: The caress of manipulation does not stop at the table. The Ivy knows how you should sit. Couples on dates are arranged side by side or at right angles. Strangers, negotiators or colleagues are opposite. A table for three is complicated. If two of the three are married or work together, it may be natural to place the singleton between them, but that's all wrong. He'll spend his time swivelling his head, like it's the Centre Court.

1.20pm: In the kitchen there is a problem: a Bang-Bang Chicken and Caesar Salad jam. The chef, Des McDonald, shouts out the complete order so everyone can synchronise. He is a big, imposing, frightening man. There may be lovable chefs, but I've yet to meet one at work.

The pastry section maintains a semblance of calm, but even here, the chefs' voices submerged beneath the din, their grumpy insouciance could only be French.

1.30pm: The bar is full as co-owner Jeremy King walks into the restaurant. For every service, either Jeremy or his partner Chris Corbin will spend some time in the restaurant. He stops at a novelist and his agent. The writer is ecstatic that someone actually wants to talk about his book rather than deals and print runs and electronic rights and begins to explain the plot. Raising a hand, Jeremy smiles and asks him not to spoil it for him.

2.00pm: There's still a traffic jam, but the panic has ebbed. Mitch emerges with a plate of pasta tied in knots. The chef has a forensic pick through it. Well, it happens.

2.30pm: In the kitchen, lunch is virtually finished. There are a couple of tables which may or may not want pudding, but there is no time to sit back and admire the morning's work.

2.45pm: Time for the regular weekly meeting to taste specials. The Ivy operates on the simple edict that you start with what the customer wants to eat — not with what the chef wants to cook.

4.30pm: The doorman arrives. Glad-hand, Irish matey. He swivels around the reservations book and makes a note of his favourite customers.

Evening *maître d'hôtel*, Fernando, a slight, bespectacled fellow, hurries in late. A table apparently not having a positively perfect time is a continual concern for him. His great skill is not to appear too busy.

5.30pm: The first pre-theatre diners trickle in. They tend to be slightly older than the later sittings, from a generation that doesn't mind eating when it's still light. Theatre curtains go up at about 7.30, and everyone has to be fed two, occasionally three, courses with enough time to make the curtain and order the interval drinks. The head waiter can't hold up the orders to ease the lot of the kitchen. They just have to get on with it.

The chef stands, bellowing. "Seventeen. Two Caesar, one Shepherd, one Fish of the Day. Pommes Allumettes. Table Twelve in one minute."

8.30pm: The restaurant is full. If we were in France we would be thinking about where to go at this time. In Spain we would still be in our socks and underpants. But for the British, 8.30 is when convention, digestion and babysitters say we should eat.

Diners are on their feet talking and glad-handing. This table-hopping business is an essential part of the arts and media world.

You couldn't begin to count the number of magazine features, films, television programmes, theatre productions, books and radio series that have had their genesis or some part of their history in this room.

9.30pm: On his arrival, Chris glances at the reservations book. There's a quivering 30 seconds while he absorbs the room. It's good tonight. The buzz, the feeling of enjoyment and expectation. The mix is right, a balance of pretty and witty. There is the sound of slithering. Unremarkable to the untrained ear, it's followed by a loud crash.

10.00pm: Hell, hell, hell. A runner has dropped a tray. Dinner for a table of four has fed gravity. Two Cassoulet, Sea Bass, chips, Caesar Salad, plates, tin cloches, the whole sodding lot on the floor.

The floor of the kitchen is now treacherous, a slick film covering everything. A porter pushes a long mop like an ancient Rastafarian's head round the walkways.

"Special. Table Fifteen. One minute."

The dinner comes again. The runner puts it carefully on the tray.

10.30pm: Tables are turning as the non-theatre diners' depart and the theatre crowd arrives. The bar is a seethe of acquaintances passing.

"How was it?"

"How was the duck?"

"How was the leading lady?"

11.00pm: A first-night party arrives with a bantering clamour like a group of Rada students making their first entrance as Montagues and Capulets. An opening night at a small, trendy, sold-out theatre.

The young star looks up and sees his glittering future unfold in a string of adoring Ivy diners.

Chris raises his eyebrows to the waiter. Champagne. On the house.

11.45pm: Just two tables to go. The manager thinks one may be a no-show, the other has called to say they'll be late. They are reminded that the kitchen closes at midnight. They want to order from the car.

It's slowing down and the chefs are thinking about home and night buses. The porters, though, are at full stretch. The crates of detritus stack up. Bags of rubbish are humped into the street for the late-night binmen. If you ever need to get rid of a body, leave it in a bin bag outside the Ivy. No one would notice.

12.30am: Upstairs, the private party breaks up, drunkenly. A record producer with a grey ponytail and chardonnay down his Comme des Garçons shirt tells a waiter to pass on his compliments to the chef.

1.00am: A few tables linger over coffee. A girl with a big bosom has joined a table with two journalists. She sits with her chin on her hand, her chest resting on the hack's arm. She isn't listening.

1.30am: The waiters wait until the last customer has left before beginning to tuck up the room for the night. When the house lights come on, the spirit of the drama is still palpable.

1.45am: Downstairs in the staff dining room four waiters and a couple of cooks slouch over their on-the-house cans of beer and chain-lit fags. Their exhaustion is apparent as they sit in their street clothes, unwilling to depart finally into the cold, quiet night.

2.00am: In the restaurant, only the manageress and one waiter remain. Beautiful as a Degas, she sits with her head on one side, filling in the log, compiled after each sitting: "A good evening. Atmosphere fun. Sir Rowland was in looking well. First night of *Past Tense*. Comped champagne. Runner dropped tray behind Table Fifteen, just missed them — no casualties. Kitchen coped well. Ran out of serving spoons. Everyone turned up."

She puts the book away and goes down to hurry the porters. The waiter sits on the bar and kicks his heels. Behind him, the ashtrays and coffee cups drip dry.

2.30am: The manageress has a final check, switches off the lights and opens the back door. Eighty-two staff have fed 425 people. Eight glasses and four plates have been broken. No one's had a baby. There were three marriage proposals: one yes, one no, one don't know.

The manageress locks up and she and the waiter walk down the empty street. As they reach the corner, he snakes an arm round her waist. She looks up, they kiss.

Taken from The Ivy, the Restaurant and its Recipes, *by A.A. Gill, (Hodder & Stoughton,* £25)

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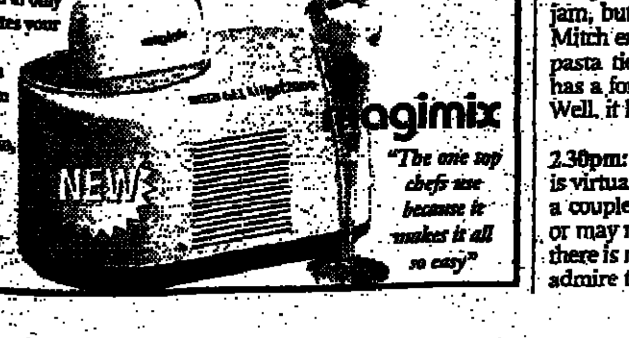

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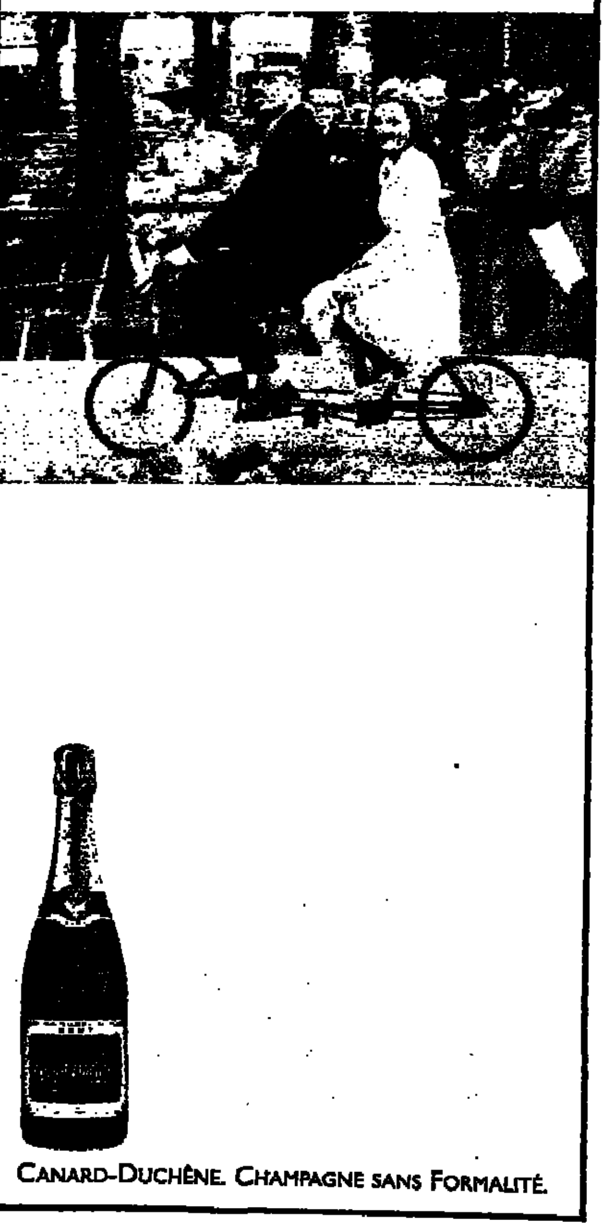


هكذا من الإصل

Designer Paloma Picasso has reinforced London's reputation as a hip city. She shops at Guinevere, **Mike Cable** reports

On the scent of fine finds

Where art and design merge

The fact that the supremely cosmopolitan Paloma Picasso chose to make London her home four years ago is a sure sign that the city is the world's most fashionable capital.

"New York wasn't fun any more, in Paris people were very negative and in Italy, Germany and the rest of continental Europe the mood was very depressed," Picasso says. "But in London I sensed a completely different atmosphere. There was a feeling that the worst was over and the place was starting to buzz again. Because I travel so much I'm very sensitive to that sort of thing."

Together with her new partner, French osteopath Eric Thevenet, she moved into a five-storey Chelsea town house and set about redecorating it from top to bottom, a project that involved regular visits to the King's Road antiques shop Guinevere.

"I do love to decorate my houses," says the 47-year-old multi-millionairess whose name is synonymous with designer chic. "For me, picking up various interesting objects is the first step in the process of creation.

"What I particularly like to do is to take things that don't belong to each other and make them work together. That's almost the way I work as a designer, too. I like to play with colour in a way that's unexpected and to marry things that are not supposed to go together."

For anyone with that approach, Guinevere, with its rich, magpie collection of unusual antiques from around the world — everything from 2,000-year-old Chinese tomb soldiers and Han Dynasty pottery to Anglo-Indian furniture and a unique 19th-century French steel sideboard — is a great source of inspiration.

The shop was opened in 1964 by French-born former milliner Genevieve Weaver, who now runs it as a family business with her sons Kevin and Marc, and has watched it expand from one shop to a series of ten show-rooms.

As a teenager in the Sixties, Picasso would fly to London every weekend to join in the "Swinging London" scene, and soon she had scores of fashionable friends, including Manolo Blahnik, who introduced her to the store.

"The first thing I ever bought here was a huge 17th-century Venetian door, carved to look like a draped curtain," she recalls. "I fell in love with it, even though I had nowhere to put it at the time. Three years later, when I was living in New York, I had a letter from the shop asking me very politely if I would please come and pick it up, and I eventually had it made into a spectacular cabinet for my Paris apartment."

Today, she also uses Guinevere as a source of last-minute birthday presents. "I run in here and 20 minutes later I usually come out with a really wonderful gift," she says.

Picasso is always on the look-out for unusual objects; particular favourites in Guinevere include silver and crystal champagne bottles into which the Edwardians would decant their bubbly to reduce the bubbles. "So that it wouldn't make the ladies burp," explains owner Marc Weaver.

The designer is also intrigued by what turns out to be a moustache-waxing kit in solid silver from a 19th-century gentleman's travelling dressing set. "I love the sort of things that leave you trying to figure out exactly what they're for," she chuckles, adding: "If I find something I think is just right, I am not bothered about the price."

Picasso can afford to be generous. On top of the fortune she inherited from her father — who named her after the dove logo he designed for the 1949 Peace Congress in Paris — she has made millions more in her own right as a designer.

Although she trained as a jewellery designer, it was in partnership with her former husband Rafael Lopez-Cambil that Picasso turned herself into a one-woman industry generating sales through her lipsticks, make-up and fashion accessory empire of nearly one billion dollars a year.

Her image, in posters and photographs, has always been the rather intimidating one of a style icon — pale face, jet black hair and trademark slash of red lipstick. But, in the flesh, and still dressed from head to foot in black, she turns out to be friendly and easy-going.

"People are always surprised when they meet me for the first time," she says. "They expect me to be some sort of Valkyrie but I'm actually rather shy. And being shy, it is sometimes useful to hide behind that image, to frighten people away before they find out I'm frightened of them."

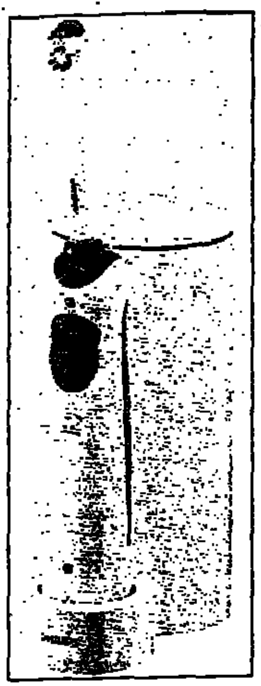
Although she travels extensively on business, Picasso is no longer interested in leading a relentless social life. "I no longer want to go out to parties," she says. "That's one reason why I left New York — to get away from the social pressure. These days I am quite happy to stay in and watch television."

● *Guinevere Antiques, 574-580 King's Road, London SW6 2DY (0171-736 2917). Open: Mon-Fri, 9.30am-6pm, Sat 10am-5.30pm.*

CHRISTOPHER BARKER

Paloma Picasso is a regular at Guinevere, the family-owned antiques business on London's King's Road run by Marc Weaver

GADGETS



High-tech tooth care

DAZZLING smiles in Hollywood tend to be like *Baywatch* suntans: fake. Dentists in Los Angeles are doing a roaring trade bleaching teeth whiter-than-white, but if that seems a bit drastic you could just try cleaning them with Philips's Jordan 2-Action plaque removing electric toothbrush.

Attached to a chunky body, the brush has two small heads, which oscillate independently for optimum cleaning power in and around teeth and gums. It has two speeds; the slower one gentler on sensitive teeth.

The Jordan feels too big for even my mouth, and using it seems impossible without dribbling like a baby. It does leave you orally refreshed — only the hefty price tag leaves a nasty taste in the mouth.

THE "hyG Ionic" toothbrush runs on a small battery and claims to remove plaque by changing the polarity of your teeth. Apparently our teeth have a negative polarity and the brush makes them positive. I put this to my dentist, nicknamed Lil (as in "The Drill"), and she laughed it off as a gimmick. She recommends daily brushing with a regular, decent brush.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● *Philips Jordan 2-Action electric toothbrush, £59.95 from Philips (0181-689 2166). hyG Ionic toothbrush, £19.99, plus p&p, from The Leading Edge (0171-499 7891).*

BARGAINS

There are bargains to be had at markets, boot sales, junk shops and stalls all over the country. With £100, what would you buy?

RECKONED by the British Tourist Authority to be London's fourth biggest tourist attraction, Camden Lock Market is a youth culture magnet loaded with Sixties memorabilia.

Collectors converge on Camden Lock in search of pop records, ceramics, even relics of pop history such as old training shoes. This obsessive's market can drive up prices. There is a shop in Camden Lock called Caveat Emptor, and this principle should be observed at all times. Equally, haggle with stallholders, who may well be able to let things go for a lot less.

Most visitors just stroll around savouring the atmosphere. But then part of the fun is buying things spontaneously. My £100 bought these curiosities:

Camden booty: and all for £100

● An old book on English furniture, £3. A house music compilation tape, £5. Taped badly from the radio, it was a bit of a waste. But a Jimi Hendrix video was a good buy at £8.50. A kitschy vase for £5 was reasonable enough. More substantial was an Indian tabla drum for £38, reduced by a tenner. I was also pleased with a British Picquotware aluminium teapot for £20; a good price, as they can go for quite a lot more. Finally and somewhat inevitably, a pair of second-hand jeans, £20. Total: £99.50.

OLIVER BENNETT

It'll be all fright on the night

HALLOWE'EN

Hey-ho for Hallowe'en,
All the witches to be seen.
Some in black and some in green.
Hey-ho for Hallowe'en!

ON FRIDAY, there will be witches and monsters, hobgoblins and ghosties flitting in the moonlight, yelling rhymes, putting out sticky little paws, and scaring neighbours into handing over ghostly treats. Forget Guy Fawkes: in the past few years, the British traditions of gunpowder and sedition have been replaced by an American-style fervour for Hallowe'en — the eve of All Saint's Day.

The festival has all the hallmarks of American excess — almost £2.5 billion a year is spent there celebrating. And despite warnings from vicars who see the festival as satanic, and the publication of a booklet by the Association of Christian Teachers persuading parents to divert children into more saintly activities, Hallowe'en has become almost as big here as Easter.

Every large supermarket chain has a range of festive trick-or-treat goodies, and there are dressing-up shops selling or hiring out clothing, from hand-made ones at Party Party (0171-267 9084) and American importer Circus Circus (0171-731 4128), to basic kits from the high street.

If you have left it too late to shop yourself, help is at hand on the Internet, through Yell, the Yellow Pages website (http://www.yell.co.uk). Here, you will find lists of fancy-dress shops, make-up suppliers and stores offering delivery.

Whatever the scaremongers say about evil influences, Hallowe'en is a time for fun. The children we photographed here really got into the spirit: the cats miaowing and hissing, the ghosts howling, and the monsters and Darth Vader lashing out with their lasers. There was only one ghastly scene — when the costumes had to come off.

LISA GRAINGER

BACK ROW (from left): Eve, 9, wears Darth Vader costume, £44.99; and carries a Star Wars light sabre, £9.99, from The American Party Store (0171-493 2678). Trick or treat bag, £3.99, from Marks & Spencer. Francesca, 9, wears a ghost costume, £25, from Mardi Gras (0181-597 4351), and plastic ghost hands, £2.99, from Safeway (01622 712987); her twin, Stevie, turns into a monster, £25, from Mardi Gras, and carries a skull candy-grabber, £1.29, from Tesco (0800 505555).
CENTRE ROW: Amy Jane, 5, wears a fake-fur Tiger costume, £22.95, from The Hill Toy Company (0171-937 8797). Inflatable Pumpkin, £6.99, from The American Party Store. Hollie, 6, wears the Pumpkin Pie Costume, £15.99, from The American Party Store (as above), and carries a plastic light-up trick or treat carrier, £2.99, from Safeway.
FRONT ROW: Flora, 2, turns into a witch, £24.99, from Selfridges (0171-629 1234) on her broomstick, £3.95, from Hill Toy Company. Jo, 2, wears the pirate costume, £14.95, from The Hill Toy Company and carries a plastic trident, 49p, from The American Party Store. Daisy, 5, poses as a cat, £24 (add £3.50 for p&p), from Hopscotch (0181-674 9853).
Styling by **Jennifer Rüggeberg** and **Lisa Grainger**.
Photograph by **Des Jenson**

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Glamorous fakes set the fur flying

Since the campaign of the Eighties which declared that it takes 40 dumb animals to make a fur coat and only one to wear it, fur has been distinctly un-PC in Britain. It may have appeared in 150 designers' autumn/winter collections, but in a recent Mori poll nine out of ten Britons said they would not wear it. Harrods was forced to close its fur department in 1990; exclusive furriers in Knightsbridge continue to be attacked; and even Imperial Cancer Research charity shops refuse to stock it.

Although real pelts have been flaunted alongside fake ones by British designers such as Hardy Amies and Tomasz Starzewski, and modelled for Fendi furriers by former anti-fur campaigner Naomi Campbell, fashion does not always translate onto the streets. We are a nation of animal lovers, and those who kill for beauty are high on the list of British hates.

Hence the plethora of fakes in the shops — on collars and cuffs, on short bomber jackets, on flyaway, long-haired stoles and bear-like full-length coats.

It is not just the leopard-skin fakes that stalked the streets last year. This season there are monochrome sweaters with long-haired cuffs tipped in white; short-haired burgundy collars on brown suede jackets; mock mink on golden wool coats. The fur is short and fluffy, long and straggly, black and glossy, or even dyed in blues, magentas and golds.

Thanks to fabric-makers' abilities to create realistic fakes, it is possible to achieve the glamorous effect of previous eras, when it was the ultimate in chic to drape a fur stole over your shoulders, to sweep into a hotel under a luxurious cloud of mink, or to nuzzle into a collar of rabbit fluff.

Italian women can wear what they like on the streets of Milan, but the British are leading the way in showing where we like our animals. And it isn't on our backs.

LISA GRAINGER

TOP: chocolate stretch moleskin trousers, £85, and jacket with fake-fur collar, £125, by Giant, from Selfridges, W1, and John Lewis and House of Fraser stores nationwide (0171-255 3007)

ABOVE: grey, black and white striped wrap cardigan with tie belt and black fake-fur trim, £59, from Kookai, branches nationwide (0171-937 4411)

LEFT: full-length ivory and gold brocade coat with blond fake-fur trim, £160, by Lipsy from selected Top Shop stores nationwide or mail order (0171-263 6206). Chocolate trousers, £34.99, from Jeffrey Rogers branches nationwide (01923 474400. Red suede high-heeled mules, £110, from Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 6903)

Photographs by **RICHARD BURNS**

TOP LEFT: long camel tie-belt coat with grey fake-fur collar, £295, from Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place, W1, and branches nationwide (0171-487 4484). Tan square-toed shoes, £79.99, from Ravel, (0171-436 3126)

LEFT: black wool knee-length coat with grey fake-fur collar, £1,360, by Givenchy, from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-235 5000). Black stretch lace vest, £35, The Collection at Etam, from selected Etam stores (0171-494 7729). Stretch lace skirt, £69, by Kevan Jon, 30 Byram Arcade, Westgate, Huddersfield HD1 1ND, or by mail order on 01484 456 312. Black suede high-heeled ankle boots, £155, from Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 6903)

FAR LEFT: navy coat with burgundy fake-fur collar, £125, The Collection at Etam, as before

Make-up by
Sally Kvalheim for Jo Hansford (0171-495 7774)
Styling by
Amandip Uppal

THREE OF A KIND

BLACK polo necks are a must for winter. Here are three of the best.

LEFT: cashmere and silk-mix sheer-fine knit, short-sleeved, £245, Press & Bastyan (0171-636 1614). **CENTRE:** chunky rib-knit, £40, Warehouse (0171-278 3491) **RIGHT:** classic lambswool, £49.50, The Scotchouse, (0171-581 2151)

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GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

Horticultural therapy: just what the doctor ordered

Green fingers, clear mind

Gardening helps people unwind from the rigours of everyday life and is a perfect therapy for the mind. **Sue Corbett** reports

Just what is it about gardens that makes gardeners — and garden visitors — feel so good? For the writer and historian Sir Roy Strong, tending his large formal garden at The Laskett on the Herefordshire/Wales border is a creative act.

"It's a tuning-in to nature but also a controlling of nature," he says. "You can pleach and trim and change things and make great compositions. All that gives me unbelievable satisfaction. Gardens also keep you mobile and allow you to breathe good air.

"And I'm a great believer in the fact that, if you have a problem, the subconscious takes over while you're doing something like digging. Then, when you go back to the computer afterwards, you find the problem has solved itself."

Lesley Talbot, director of the Thanet branch of the mental health charity Mind finds gardening unbeatable therapy for people with mental health problems. "The peace and quiet of our garden helps them to somehow unburden themselves a little," she says.

"While they garden, they unwind and sometimes things come to the fore that don't necessarily do so in an ordinary counselling session. People feel able to talk more freely."

Bill Collings, general manager of forensic psychiatric services for Southampton Community Health NHS Trust, runs four greenhouses and an allotment for 50 people with mental health problems.

"Horticultural therapy has a tremendous amount to offer," he says. "One person who had hardly spoken for two years started to come every day to work on our project. Now he has even appeared on television talking about it and how it saved him from staring at four walls."

Gardening as therapy for people with mental health problems is a growth area for the Somerset-based charity Horticultural Therapy (HT). Staff find that simple jobs such as seed-sowing are popular with mentally ill clients, and they encourage them by putting their names on labels in the seed trays so that they can follow the plants through to flowering.

"If someone can't settle, we'll do something specific like moving dry plants out of the greenhouse to water them," says Richard Jones, demonstrator at the HT garden in Battersea Park, London. "Plants have to be tended — so it takes the focus away from that person and helps them to concentrate. Watering is always therapeutic."

Even being confined to a wheelchair need not mean the end of gardening pleasures. Fred Warden, horticultural therapy technician at Mary Marlborough Centre, Headington, Oxford, uses a wheelchair and says that when people see him, they realise there is hope. For just £25 a session (free on the NHS to some clients), Mr Warden advises people with severe physical disabilities on how to remain active in their gardens.

"If you really love your garden and it's your life and suddenly you can't do it, you get very depressed," he says.

"I give advice on garden design, as well as the right tools, equipment and techniques. I spend a couple of hours talking to people. Then we choose one of the 150-odd tools we keep here, and I get them to use it in our garden. Needless to say, everything around here gets pretty well pruned."

In its different way, Mr Warden's gardening work is every bit as satisfying as Sir Roy Strong's. Overjoyed clients send him vegetables, and one woman who surmounted her difficulties with his help, went on to win a competition for the best garden in her town.

● A Garden for You: A Practical Guide to Tools, Equipment and Design for Older People and People with Disabilities *by Fred Warden, is available from the Disabled Living Foundation, 380-84 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU, price £5.95, including p&p*

● *Mary Marlborough Centre, Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LD (01865 741155).*

● *Horticultural Therapy, Goulds Ground, Vallis Way, Frome, Somerset BA11 3DW (01373 464782).*

● *Mind, 15-19 Broadway, London E15 4BQ (0181-519 2122).*

■ *Plant grapevines in rich, well-manured* soil, in a sunny position, and erect posts and wires for subsequent training. Protect against the cold during this first winter.

■ Shorten any long, gangling stems on shrub roses to reduce wind rock. Floribunda roses that have finished flowering may be given the same treatment.

■ If not completed earlier, just after flowering time, rambler roses can have flowered stems removed and new stems tied into position.

■ *Take 12in hardwood cuttings of buddleia,* cut-leaved or purple elders, forsythia, willow, flowering currant, gooseberries, and red, white and blackcurrants. Set the cuttings, two-thirds buried, in a nursery row and leave them there for the first year. All will grow quickly in the first year.

■ Make any late cuts of the lawn a little longer than usual, 1in-2in, to strengthen the grass for winter. Choose a dry and preferably windy day, and make sure all clippings are boxed or raked off to minimise disease.

■ Place a cloche over a row of parsley to keep up supplies for Christmas. Tired plants may be revived with a gentle application of nitrogenous fertiliser.

■ Cut down the ferny stems of asparagus and clear away, removing any weeds growing at the base.

■ Plant out cloves of garlic on light, warm soils, 6in apart. For good cropping, it is important to establish the plants in the autumn. On cold, heavy soils, keep in pots in a cold greenhouse for planting out in spring.

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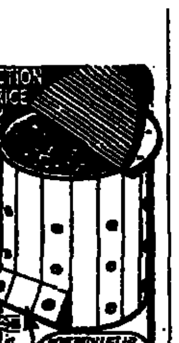

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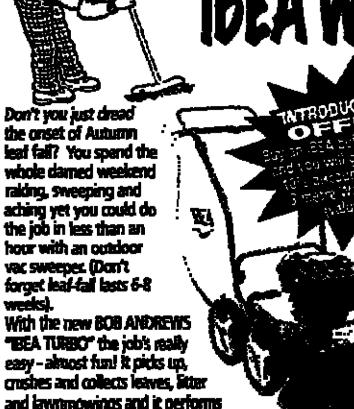

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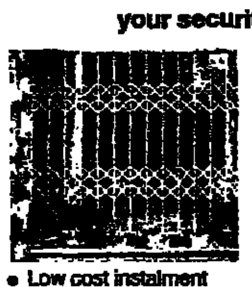

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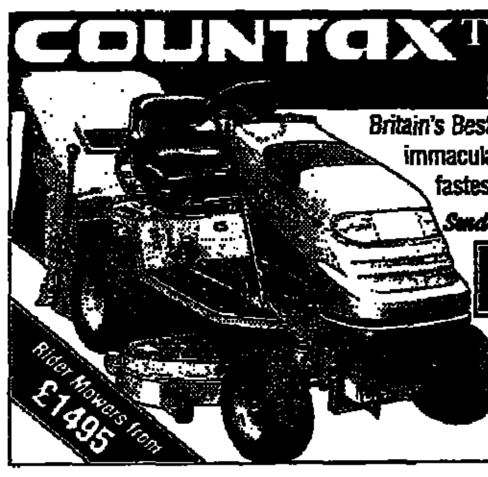

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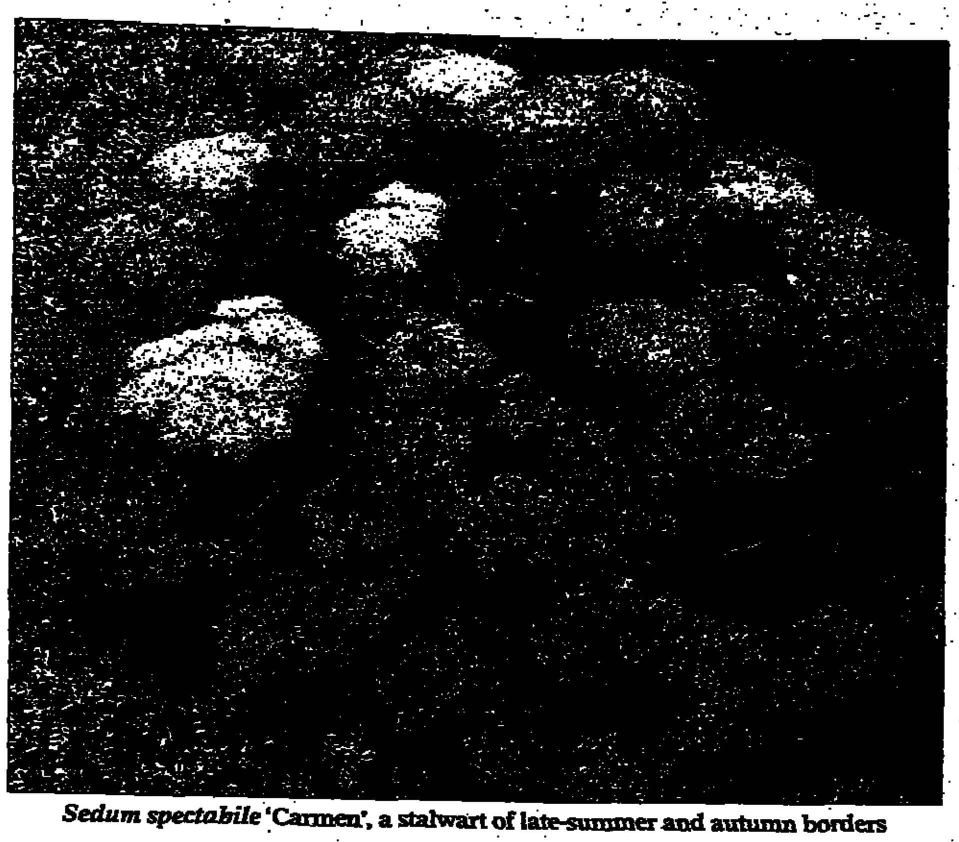

Sedum spectabile 'Carmen', a stalwart of late-summer and autumn borders

CLIVE NICHOLS

'Autumn Joy' covered with a November frost at Wolfson College Garden, Oxford. Its strength and lasting quality make it an invaluable garden plant

Summer is over, but new varieties of sedum can still give your borders a bronzed look, says **Stephen Anderton**

When times are hard and water is in short supply, nothing is more reliable than the good old ice plant and the big succulent sedum. They are one of the stalwarts of late-summer and autumn borders.

For years there was just a handful of varieties to be found. More recently, nurseries, German ones in particular, have been breeding and selecting new, improved varieties, not least because sedums are so drought-resistant.

The bench mark for sedums must surely be the old stager 'Herbstfreude' ('Autumn Joy'), whose strength and lasting quality still make it an invaluable garden plant. Succulent grey-green foliage arises in spring from a tight crown, blossoming into a mound of scaly leaves. The flower heads develop gradually on the end of each stem, grey as the leaves at first, then going from pink to brick red. All the while the head relaxes from a convex fist to a shallow dome of flower. Finally, the flowers turn brown, and the stems and flower heads stand through the winter, looking attractive in frost or bound into a deadly dome by spiders' webs.

Clumps of 'Herbstfreude' will last for many years without division. Eventually, the stems become thinner, and will tend to flop outwards, indicating that it is time to carve up the clump in spring and replant it in much smaller pieces. Offsets of three to four buds quickly make a whole new clump.

I have never associated this strength and vigour with *Sedum telephium* and its forms. These do not have the clump-forming hybrid vigour of 'Herbstfreude', and tend to make a group of upright stems rather than a luxurious dome of foliage. You need to group a few plants together to make a good patch. *S. telephium maximum* has a hint of bronze in its foliage, and can produce limey green flowers as late as October. The more tellingly bronzed form, *S. telephium maximum* 'Atropurpureum', has almost chocolatey foliage and flowers of muddled pink in late summer.

Even the old ice plant itself, *S. spectabile*, is not such a good performer as the reliable 'Herbstfreude'. Its foliage is icy pale-green, rather than grey-green, and its light-pink flowers open a couple of weeks later than 'Herbstfreude'. It also has a variegated form with creamy yellow splashes on the leaves, which is constitutionally weak, though attractive as a curiosity.

Such was the choice of sedums until the last few years. Now all that is changing. There are some fine new names to look for.

The first, *S. telephium ruprechtii*, is actually a subspecies and so not new, but it has only recently risen in popularity. The leaves are a purplish grey and the intervening stems pink, but the flowers open to an attractive and unusual (in a big sedum) creamy yellow. It is rather lax in habit, and smaller than the general run of sedums.

One of the best new bronzed sedums is 'Matrona'. It is nowhere near as bronzed or purplish as the darkest forms of *S. telephium*, but what strength it has. It grows to at least 2ft, with large leaves of a dusky green, with a purple stain around the central vein. The stems are winey, the huge flower heads a dusky pink.

Similar, but less upright, is 'Joyce Henderson', which is grown to perfection at Bourton House, at Bourton-on-the-Hill in the Cotswolds.

There are some extravagant names floating around for the new hybrids — mostly stemming from the plummy foliage. Would you have chosen 'Gooseberry Fool' or 'Stewed Rhubarb Mountain'?

There are some good pure whites appearing, too. 'Stardust' is a greenish white, on a plant about a foot high. Being a child of *S. spectabile*, is has that species' clear, pale-green foliage. I am growing 'Iceberg' for the first time this year, which again is short, but it has extraordinarily flat, large, white heads of flower.

Comparing closely the pink sedums in the garden, 'Herbstfreude' is by far the rosiest pink just now. 'Brilliant' is a much mauver pink, and 'Meteor' a darker, bluish pink.

Recently, I read in *New, Rare and Unusual Plants* that a new variegated sedum will hit the scene in 1998. Called 'Frosty Morn', it has cream flowers. (The pink ones of the variegated *S. spectabile* never did much for the plant.)

Until this year I would have said sedums were certainly not susceptible to any particular pest or disease. Now I have changed my mind. Something has been girdling the stems, taking off the soft outer layer for a couple of inches, just at the bottom. It could be vine weevils or snails, but even looking at night with a torch I have yet to catch any beastie *in flagrante*. The stems that have been girdled begin to shrivel and slowly die.

But the dying stems, in a desperate bid for life, have been making new plantlets and roots at the base of every leaf. Just by cutting up the stems and potting up the pieces, I could have a dozen new plants for every damaged stem. I could start a nursery.

SEDUM FILE

- Many sedums can be seen and purchased at the Beth Chatto Gardens, Elmstead Market, Colchester CO7 7DB (01206 822007). Open Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm until Friday, then Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm.
- The quarterly journal *New, Rare and Unusual Plants* is available for £14 a year, or £3.50 for one issue, from Aquilegia Publishing, 2 Grange Close, Hartlepool TS26 0DU (01429 423165).

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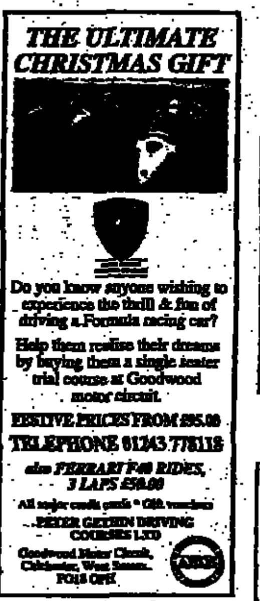

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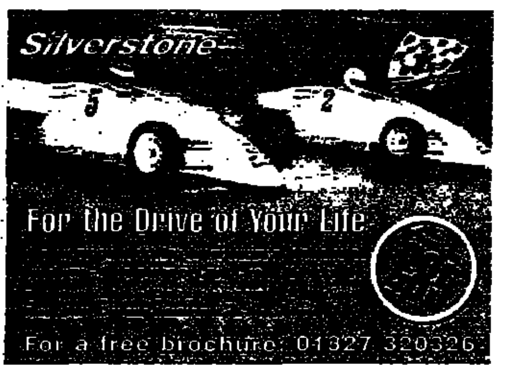

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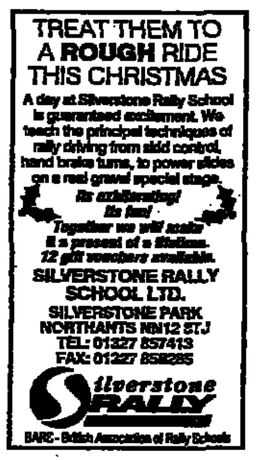

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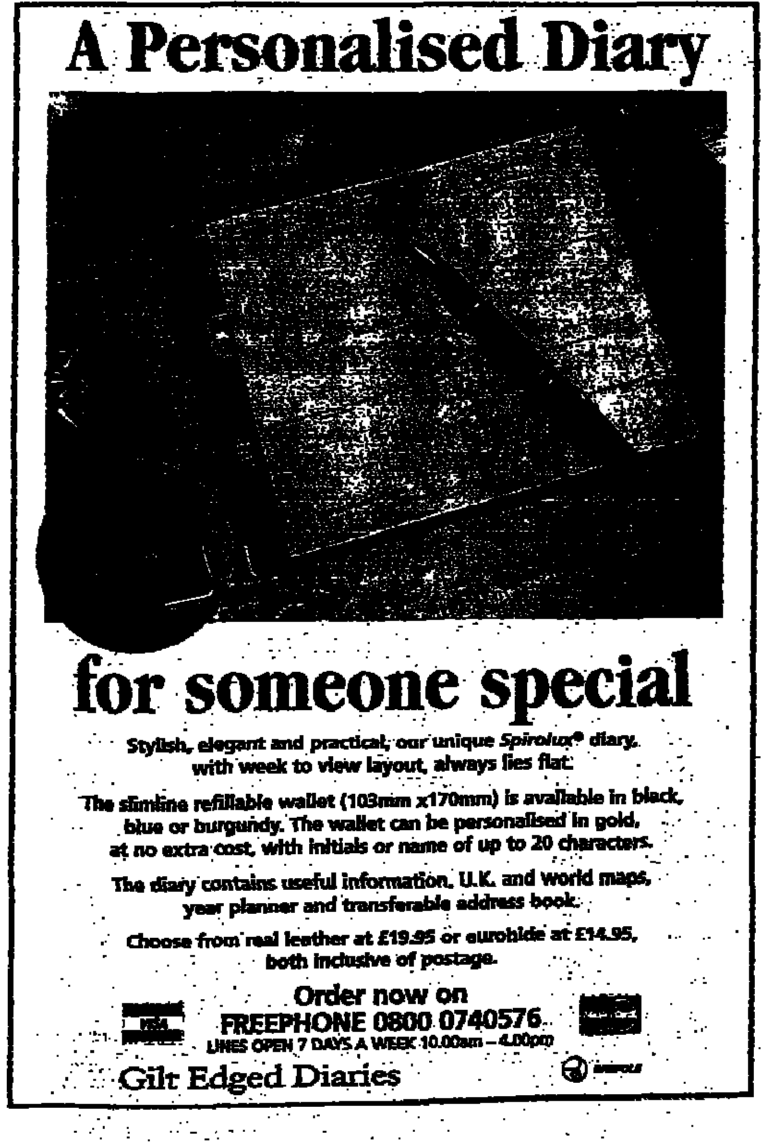

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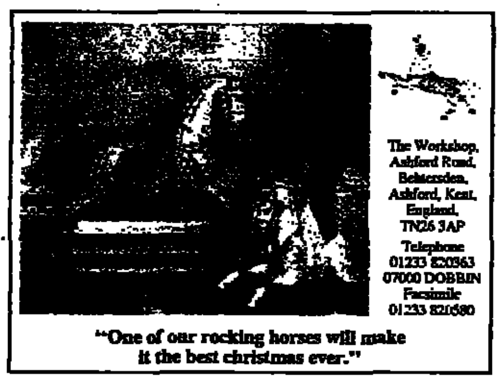

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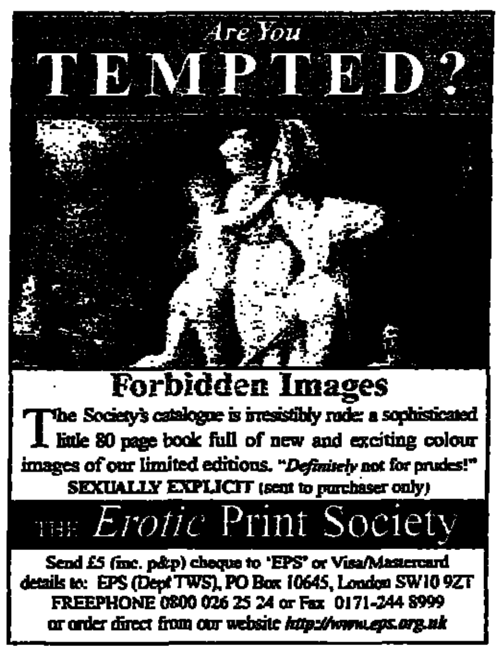

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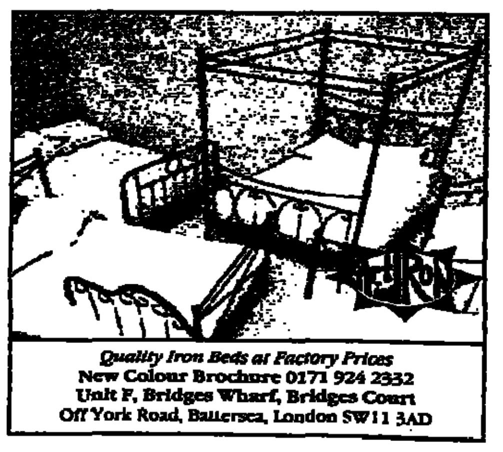

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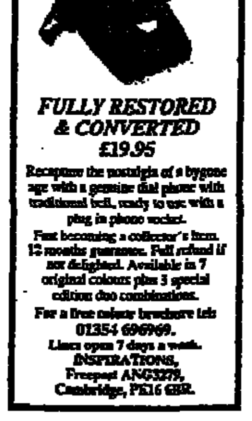

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GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q **Can you identify a *plant found growing* in a freshwater ditch near *the sea in the Orkneys? It* has 2-3ft flower stems with *dense clusters of 1-2in* white daisies with yellow centres at the top. The leaves are dark, shiny green, and a few clasp the stem too.** — M. Rider. Chelmsford, Essex.

A I recognise this from your picture as *Senecio smithii*, a designer *groundsel for midsummer*. It is a terrific plant. In *Britain*, the *further north* you go the better it gets. It enjoys cool and wet conditions, and apparently grows wild in ditches in the Falklands. I grew it in ordinary, dryish border soil in Northumberland, but at the foot of a short north-facing wall. In *the* hotter, dryer parts of the south, it tends to grow shorter *and never looks* quite so healthy. It would look *very sad in my* dry Essex garden, but if you give it plenty of humus, it might grow well. You could try *Microseris ringens*, too. It is a shorter version of *S. smithii*, with similar clusters of yellow flowers, and it is a little less perturbed by life down south.

Q *My* **daughter-in-law is hooked on gardening, *and last weekend my* husband and I organised a *compost heap for her*. The grandchildren have a rabbit, and I wonder if the waste from the hutch could go on the heap, or would it pose a health risk?** — G. Staveley, Hull.

A Go ahead. Only be careful that you do not get so much carbon-rich material together in the heap that it does not heat up *and rot. Open up and* crumple the hutch newspapers. The *nitrogen-rich* rabbit urine will speed things up, but some kitchen waste would help to keep it active. Why not get another rabbit or 20, to speed up compost production?

Q **A beech tree in my garden is getting too big and I would like to pollard it, both to control its size, and as a long-term *source of firewood. The* tree has a single trunk to 6ft 4in, then many shoots, suggesting it has been pollarded many years ago. Would it survive pollarding again, when should it be done, and should I cut through the main trunk or through the old pollard shoots, ie, just below or just above the previous cuts?** — E. Beaumont, *Fareham, Hants.*

A Pollarding — cutting all the branches back to the trunk to re-grow — is a winter job, before the sap begins to rise again. The more regularly it is done (10-15 years), the better a tree responds and survives. A pollarded tree which has been allowed to grow on again for 30-100 years can often be repollarded, but the shock can be fatal. *Beech is not pleased to be* pollarded, and cuts made *across major limbs often do* not respond at all. I would leave your beech alone, or replace it with a more co-operative species.

● *Write to: Garden Answers, Weekend*, The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *regrets that enclosures cannot be returned.*

A hero for England on the field tells **Jane Owen** why he will not tackle backyard brambles

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Victor Ubogu has plans to host a few parties at the courtyard of his home in Bath (left and below) — but first there is the small matter of clearing away the tangled overgrowth

Quiet place away from the scrum

ME AND MY GARDEN: VICTOR UBOGU

Victor Ubogu, the *opera-loving* England rugby squad player whose naked bottom has on more than one occasion wowed the crowds during Grand Slam matches, makes his staggering announcement nonchalantly as we slash our way to his garden through swathes of underwear and clothes strewn across his bedroom floor.

"I am going to give up wine, women and song," he says. Just like *that. There are crates of good* champagne upstairs. Women keep *ringing on both his mobile phones.* The Met will probably fold without his patronage. So has life with a yellow Lotus and a bottomless wallet become too meaningless and shallow?

"It is for the sake of Oxfam's Fast Food Day on Friday, November 14. If I am playing on the Saturday I can't give up food like most people, but I will not take anyone out that night and I'll give the money I've saved to Oxfam," says the man who claims to know only one flower — the white orchid: "I buy them to send to people."

Mr Ubogu is master of a small overgrown courtyard in central Bath, where he lives in an elegant three-storey stone house. He moved here in June from a cottage on Kew Green, west London, which gave him regular access to Kew Gardens, his *favourite place to "chill out" between* rugby and his business interests.

These include a London bar called Shoeless Joe's and a security firm, which he has since left to turn professional, return to the England rugby squad and focus on the 1999 World Cup. "I had to cut down on my interests — I am not getting any younger," says the 33-year-old with the roar of laughter that punctuates almost everything he says.

He leads the way out into the 25ft by 15ft courtyard, through some particularly vicious brambles, to reveal his plans. It is not an easy plot — shaded by a right-angle of high Bath stone buildings, and damp with little air movement but a good, slightly alkaline soil.

"I want to find out who owns the garden next door and buy it. It is even more overgrown than mine," he says. "Then I'll pierce an arch through the wall. One garden would be for *parties and the other, next door,* would be to chill out in, with a bench *for me to sit on and read."*

The chill-out garden would be planted with soporific herbs and a voluptuous planting to give the effect of a rainforest.

"I grew up in Nigeria, where it is lush, wild and beautiful," says the 16-stone Oxford blue who has lived in Britain since 1977.

His Bath garden must have been presentable at one time, but bramble, ivy, bindweed and creeping buttercup have just about smothered a planting of silver prostrate *Juniper squamata*, cherry, honeysuckle, an *Acer palmatum*, wisteria, clematis, hart's-tongue and hellebore.

Mr Ubogu frowns at his Bath stone paving and says he will replace it with terracotta tiles, build a barbecue in the centre of the small walled garden and make raised stone-edged *beds around the perimeter.*

"Because I'm quite colourful," says *Mr Ubogu with glorious* understatement, "I like plenty of bright colours so I want lots of colourful plants in the raised beds."

Mr Ubogu's garden plans have a certain theatricality. "I like the overgrown look and I'll put in some strategically placed lighting — subtle, low lighting for parties."

Most surprising is his plan for a stone grotto at the far end of his party garden. "I just want somewhere I can hide away, especially during parties."

More roars of laughter. "And I want a statue of Belgium's *Manneken Pis*," he says with post-modernist irony.

Mr Ubogu says he has neither the knowledge nor the time to do the garden himself. "I haven't thought in depth about who should do the garden. I've got to sort out the inside first — I mean look at it."

There is a certain informality in Mr Ubogu's house — clothing scattered *where it lands* — and, *in his* bare-boarded office, computers, electronic *equipment and an awesome array of* trainers sprout across the floor.

But, given the chance, who wouldn't swap a little house pride for a life of wine, women and opera? It was on a rugby tour of Australia that Mr Ubogu fell in love with opera. After being persuaded to see *La Bohème* at the Sydney Opera House, he was won over, and now he is a regular opera-goer, with purist taste. Quite a conversion for a rugby international.

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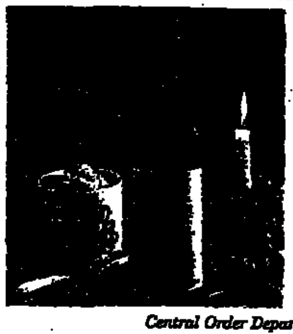

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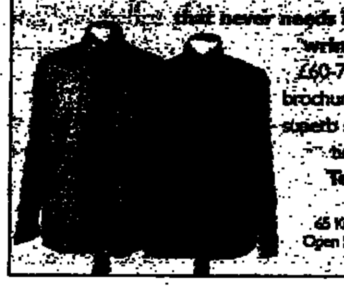

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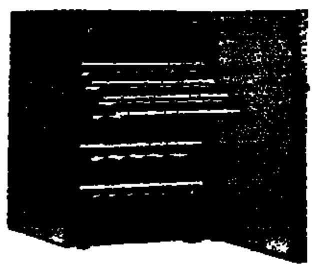

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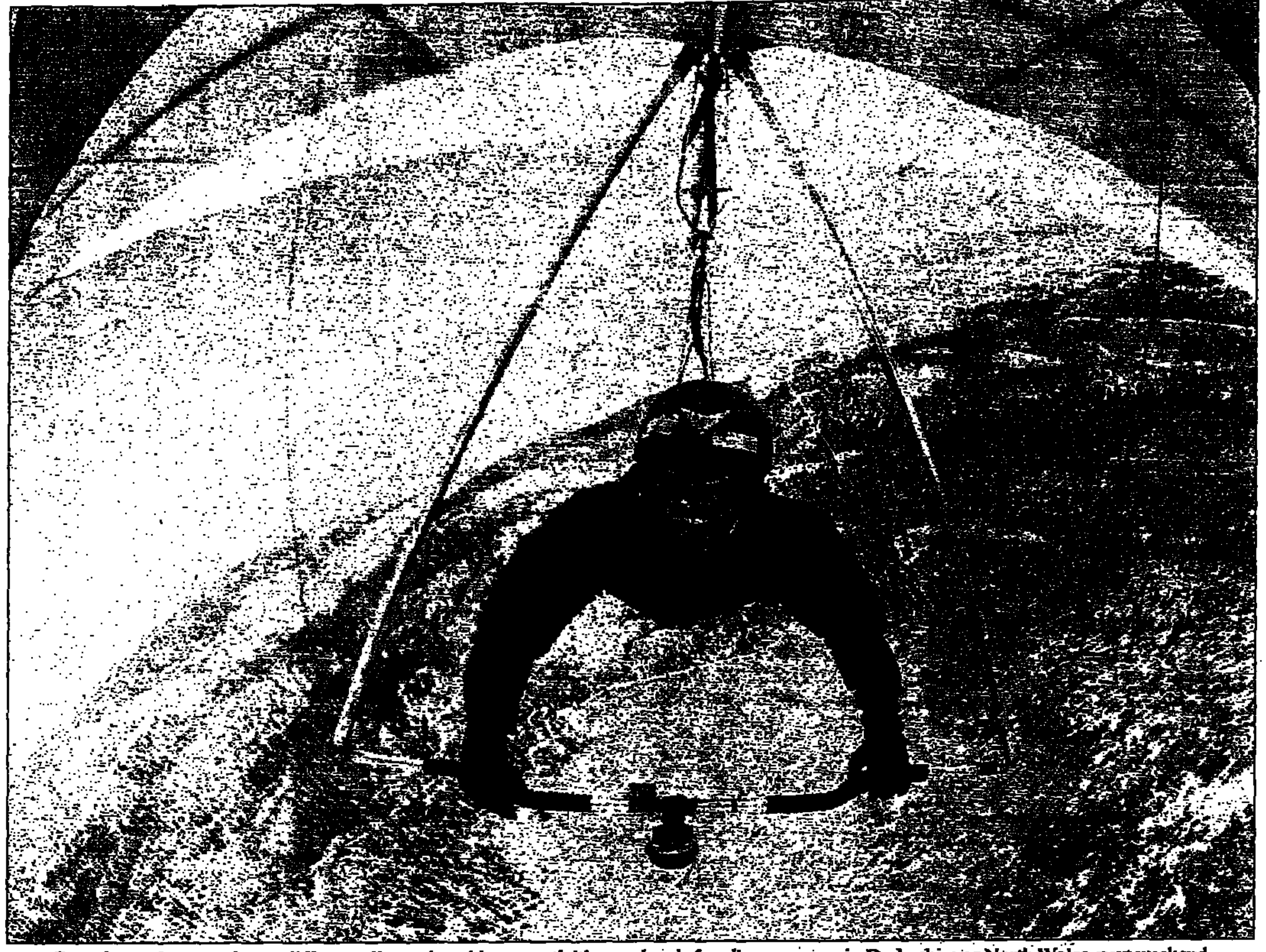
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OCT 31-NOV 2

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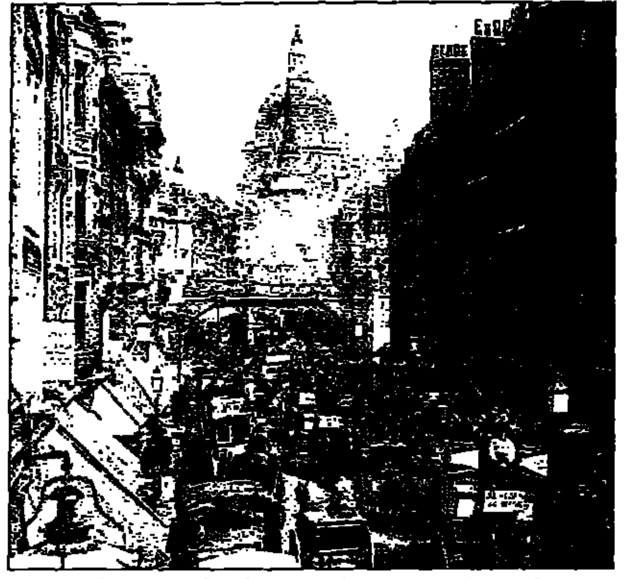
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NOVEMBER 7-9

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Poetry and prose of the Great War; Chamber music for amateurs; Modern gardening; Hat-making for beginners: Some of the courses at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 890295). Prices £159 residential, £69 non-residential.

Drama Workshops at the *Unicorn Theatre for Children,* Arts Theatre, Gt Newport St, *WC2 (0171-379 3280). Tomorrow:* playwriting and teddy bears. Price per session £7.50.

Calligraphy and cards; Writing memoirs; Cities of the Baltic (art history): This weekend at Belstead House, Ipswich, *Suffolk (01473 686321).* Prices from £75-£95, inclusive.

Woodland wildlife in autumn; Painting plants; Improve your watercolours: A selection of painting courses at Flatford Mill, East Bergholt, Essex (01206 298283). Prices from £79-£102, inclusive.

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Siegfried Sassoon, poet of paradox. University of Manchester, Centre for Continuing Development (0161-275 3275). Prices, £92, inclusive.

The road to Santiago and Muslim Spain; Exoticism and Western architecture; *Images of the body:* *Three* courses at the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). From £117, including accommoation.

The courts of Renaissance Italy; Astronomy; Victorian and Edwardian architecture in London; Bridge: improve your Acol bidding; Promoting a sense of well-being: At Missenden Abbey, Great *Missenden, Bucks (01494* 890295). Price £159 residential, £59 *non-residential.*

Colonialism in the 19th and 20th centuries; Music of the 1920s and 1930s; Science and religion: All at the Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Staffs (01782 372105). Price £36, including *full-board.*

Cooking for Christmas; Scot*tish country dancing; Learn* to swim; Pastels for beginners: All at the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Winter brochure now available. Weekend rates from £142 residential, £98 non-residential.

Scrabble weekend; Bridge for beginners; Gourmet cooking: in Welsh Marches with Acorn Activities (01432 830083). *Price £125, inclusive.*

Autumn fruits and flowers in gouache; Egyptology: Two courses at Belstead House Education Centre, Ipswich, Suffolk (01473 686321). Prices from £75-£95, inclusive.

Navigation and hill walking; basic map reading. Edale *Hostel, Derbyshire (01433* 670302). £87.

***Archaeological* interpretation and mapping from aerial photographs:** This weekend at the University of Oxford, Rewley House (01865 270360). Price £46. Accommodation by arrangement.

Cake design with Christmas in mind; Crafts for Christmas; Yoga; Calligraphy: Four courses at the Horncastle College, Horncastle, Lincolnshire *(01507 522449). Price, £87,* inclusive.

Abseiling, river rafting, tank driving, walking; fly fishing in Grampian with Tartan Collection Activities, Cairnton, Lumphanan, Aberdeenshire (013398 83500). £179 inclusive.

Woodcarving; Guitar ensemble weekend; *Painting detail* in watercolour; Backcare *workshop:* All *this weekend at* the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, West Sussex (01798 865306). From £114 residential, £90 non residential.

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BALCOMBE STREET NW1 Price reduced to £275,000. Upper two floors of a period building. 3 beds, 2 baths, big reception room. Kinleigh Folkard & Hayward 0171 486 5551.

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BARONS CRT W14. Large 25ft ground floor studio flat £81,000 STC 0171 259 2779

BRYANSTON MANSIONS, W1. Spacious 3 bed, 2 recep, 2 bath, flat, porter, lift, ch F/H £365,000. 0171 724 9919

CAMDEN TOWN NW1 Sgle stry unit of app 1100 sq ft. Sbj to plan will prov 3/4 bed mews style hse with rf terr. £125,000 Freehold 0171 813 0022.

CHISWICK W4 A delightful Vic. hse, river views, 3 beds, bath, dble rec, k/b rm, utility rm, cellar, 35' gdn. F/H £299,950. Whitman & Co. 0181 747 8900.

COMPANY SALE Lisson Grove NW8 Excellent 4 bed town house with patio gdn. Freehold Must be sold. Offers Invited Sandfords 0171 723 9988

EUSTON ST, NW1. F/H 4 bed house next to Euston station, lounge, dining, patio, balc, 3 flrs. £265,000. 0171 724 9919

GT TITCHFIELD ST, W1. 3 bd maisonette, long lse, low s/c, reqs work £199k 0171 724 9919

IDEAL Location W12. Sunny, stylish, spacious, 1 bed Maisonette, quiet close all amenities. £190pw. Tel: 0181 743 5037

MONTAGUE MANSION, W1. Spacious 2 d/bed two bath flat on lower grnd of prime portered block, offers on £215,000. Sandfords 0171 723 9988

MONTAGU MANSIONS W1 2 bed, 2 bath, 3rd flr flat, lift, porter. £225,000. Tel:0171 724 9919.

PARLIAMENT HILL A contemp twn hse in award win cres. 4/5 beds, 3 baths, slnr rm, w/c, excell recep, lux kitch, dng area, terr, balc and s f gdn, o.s.p. £485,000 F/hold. 0171 813 0022.

PIMLICO One bed 1st floor flat, comm roof terr, balc. £145,000 Barringtons 0171 976 5200

PIMLICO Three bedroom maisonette, balcony. £135,000. Barringtons 0171 976 5200

PRIMROSE HILL NW1A selection of prd contemp hses in prm loc. Prices from £475,000-£900,000. 0171 813 0022.

REGENTS PARK NW1 Beautiful 3rd flat with Lift, in Nash Terrace property with stunning views of the Park, 3 beds, 2 recps, 2 baths, fitted kitchen, lock up garage. £865,000 0171 289 0104 Howard Estates.

ST JOHNS WOOD, NW8. Stunning 2 bed flats on 3rd floor of mansion block close Lords.54yr lse, extension available £147,950. Sandfords 0171 723 9988

THE Building Society Repossession list London/ Home Country's edition £65. Nationwide edition £65. For 3 months sub. Tel: 0181 262 7788.

W2 Brand new refurb 1 bed flat in mod port'd, pbb £137,000. Westways 0171 792 2167.

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

ABERVILLE VILLAGE 3 bed Victorian maisonette. South facing gdn. £180,000 0181 673 8303

BARNES Spac 4 bed town house o/lkng St Pauls playing fields. Well ftr kit, master bed + e/s shwr, further bath, patio gdn, dble gge + OSP. £325,000 Vanstons 0181 563 8333

BATTERSEA, Queenstown Rd. Superb newly mod, 2 dbl bed flat, roof terr, £127,000. 01963 370 423 or 01747 871 881

BROMLEY 5 bedroom detached family home, 120' garden, garage, £285,000. 0181 693 3456

SE1 A 2 bedroom flat in a recently developed complex close to the heart of London. The development includes state of the art security, health club & business centre. Leasehold £114,000 0171 820 0123.

SW8 A large 1 bdrm flat in prestigious development on the banks of the Thames. Benefitting from balcony overlooking the River, good cond, parking resident porter. Share of freehold £155,000 0171 820 0123.

TELEGRAPH HILL SE14, family hse, 5 beds, lge gdn, clse to pk, schools, tube/BR, refurb 1985. £165,000. 0171 6623227.

TWICKENHAM Top floor bright spacious studio flat, Superbly located 5mins BR. Occasional bed/study rm, full bathroom, secure pvt pkg. C/H. £69,950. Tel: 0181 892 2269.

CITY & WEST END

BARBICAN, EC2. Two bed flat, sth facing recep, view over gdns from beds £159,500. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

BLOOMSBURY Choice of 2 studio flats. 1930's block near to Russell Square. £64,500 Huxford Salvi Carr 0171 250 1012

CITY RD, EC1. A new conversion of five one bedroom flats, 3 with terraces, views over Bunhill Fields prices from £162,500. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

EC1 Laystall St, small period house, 1/2 bed, Freehold £135,000. Tel:0171 2781851.

SOUTHWARK SE1. One bed flat in need of refurb. In blk with parking and porter £110,000. Two bed flats from £145,000 close to City tower. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

WESTMINSTER A two bathroom mansion flat in sought after location. Includes communal gardens, sauna, spa, gym, resident porter and high security. Share of freehold £185,00 0171 820 0123.

W1 Molyneux Street, Freehold period house, 3 beds, 2 baths, newly fitted kitchen and breakfast rm. Utility, through recep rm, terrace and gdn. £600,000 Freehold. Park Estates Properties 0171 724-8888.

FULHAM

NR Fulham Broadway. Well presented, 4 dble bed hse, lge kit, dble recep, lge bathroom, cloakroom, cellar, gdn. £275,000. 0171 6101514.

RADIPOLE ROAD SW6. 5 double bedroom maisonette in need of work, arranged over 3 floors, minutes to Parsons Green. £385,000 Neg. Tel: 0171 610 6666 (Robert or Tom).

ST DIONIS ROAD Parsons Green. A substantial 3 storey period property. 4 double beds, bathroom, shower room, 33ft kitchen, 33ft drawing room, 60ft approx garden. Minutes to Tube. £395,000 Neg. Tel: 0171 610 6666 (Robert or Tom).

ROSALINE ROAD SW6. 3 double bed house off Munster Road, double recep, large kitchen, rear patio, cosmetic attention needed. £237,500. Tel: 0171 610 6666 (Robert or Tom)

PARSONS GR. Edwardian 2 dble bed 1st flr PB flat 99 yr lease £179,950. 0171 736 1601 (EQ)

VARNA ROAD 4 double beds, 2 bath Victorian house, double reception, conservatory, rear patio, well decorated. £315,000. Tel: 0171 610 6666. (Robert or Tom).

WANDSWORTH BRIDGE RD SW6. Spacious 3 double bed top floor maisonette, 2 baths (ensuite), large reception, attractively decorated throughout. £210,000. Tel: 0171 610 6666 (Robert or Tom).

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

CHELSEA Newly refurb 1 bed flat, u/gnd pkg, porterage. £160,000 Barringtons 0171 976 5200

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

CHELSEA SW10 Lux 2 rm apt. New Lse. only £119,950 day 0171 221 4840/352 6649 eve.

CORNWALL GARDENS, SW7 spacious newly refurbished interior designed lower ground apt, 3 bed, 2 bath, seperate w/c, reception, fully fitted kitchen, laundry area, internal patio. 999 year leasehold, £395,000. Viewing Sunday 26/10/97. Tel: 0171 731 3203/ 0973 308380

EARLS COURT SQ SW5 1st flr 4 bed, 2 bath, dble recep & balc, comm gdns views (1215 sq ft) £410,000 L/H. Aaron & Lewis 0171 244 9911/ 244 9839

HOLLAND PK Interior design 3/4 bed apt, 2 baths, gdn, F/Hold £500,000 0171 221 9044

KENSINGTON Recently refurb 2 bed Vict apt, original features, £163,950 0171 221 9044.

MEWS HSE Queensgate Sunny Side Dbl Recep 4 beds 2 baths FF kit util rm lge rf terr lge gge £700,000 FH. 0171 373 0978

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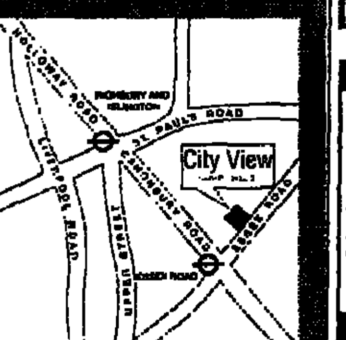

WESTMINSTER SW1
Ashley gardens
Opposite Cathedral, spacious, immaculate late Victorian mansion flat with large rooms and high ceilings (130cms).
2/3 reception rooms.
3/4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully fitted kitchen, large entrance hall, approx 2,000 sq ft (185 m²).
Long lease plus share of freehold.
£550,000 for quick sale.
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or 0956 506737

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£595,000 Sole Agents
Kinleigh Folkard & Hayward
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21ft galleried reception, 1/2 bedrooms, fully fitted kitchen and bathroom, backing onto St. Peter's Square, with South facing garden. Freehold
ono £235,000
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or 0385 395995

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2 bedrooms (1 double, 1 single) garden flat, 2 ensuite bathrooms, fully fitted kitchen, large reception room. Gas central heating. Cloakroom. 95 year lease. Close to BR Station and shops.
£142,000.
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No agents

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Spacious 2/3 bedroom garden apartment in famous Georgian Crescent on Heath, set in acres of private mature gardens with pvt parking.
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O.I.R.O. £290,000
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(open 7 days till late)

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Just on market view today.
O.I.R.O. £290,000
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1 and 2 bedroom luxury warehouse apartments
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FULHAM

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FULHAM PALACE ROAD SW6. 3 bed 1st floor flat with garden in need of some work. Very spacious. Freehold available, possibility of roof extension etc. £159,000. Tel: 0171 610 6666 (Robert or Tom)

LYSIA ST SW6. New to market. A newly refurbished bright and very spacious 2 double bed garden flat, drawing room/kitchen measures 30ft x 20ft approx. Extensions to side and rear. £229,000. Tel: 0171 610 6666 (Robert or Tom).

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Artist's impression

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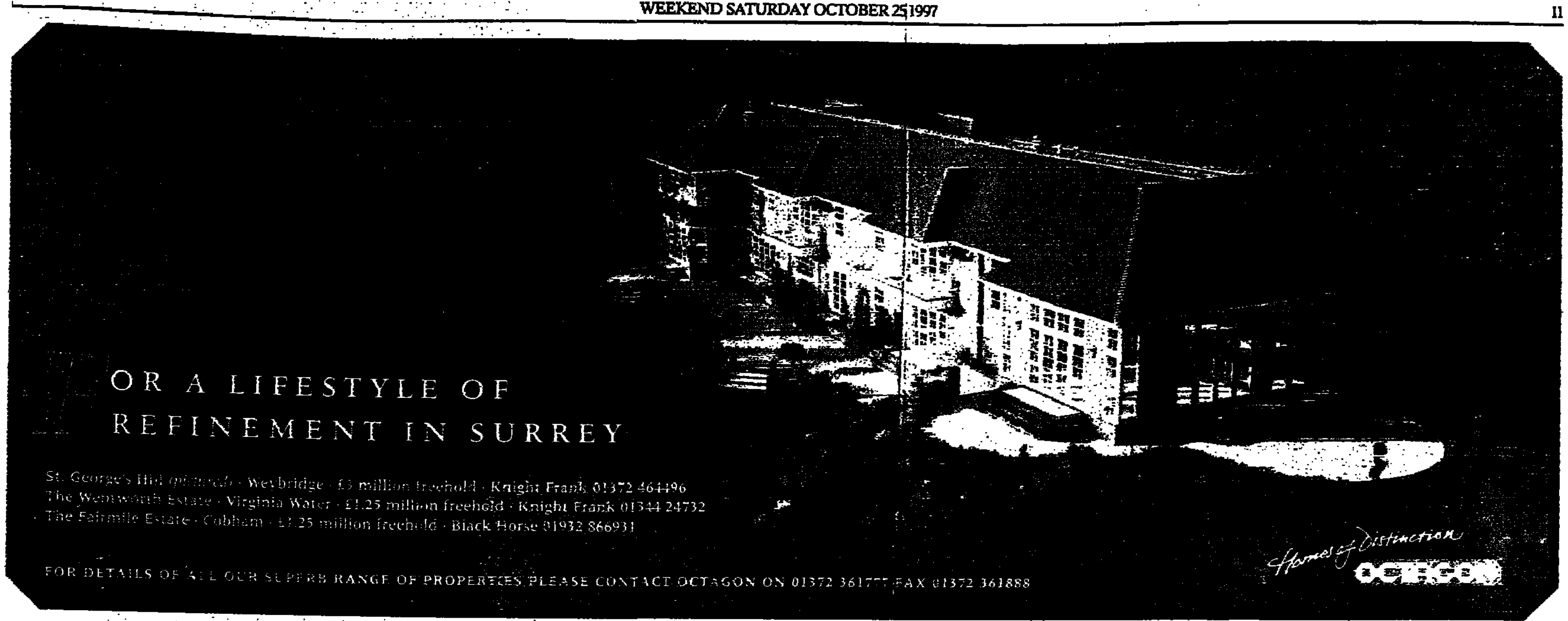

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NW3

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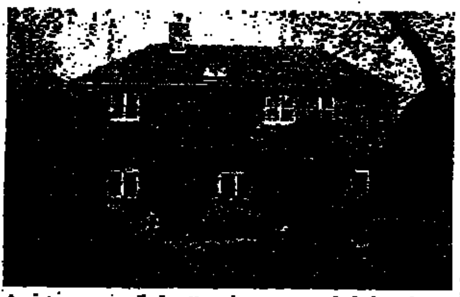

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NO Agents. £695,000

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KENT

HAWKHURST Detached Victorian House. 4 beds, 2 rec, gdn. 55mins Charing Cross (Staplehurst). Cranbrook Sch. C.A. £149,950. 01580 752884

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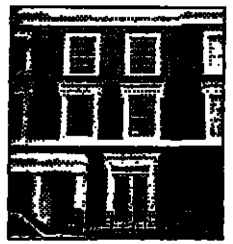

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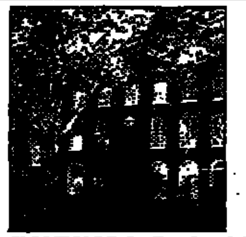
Hazlemere Crossroads, Bucks 01494 716000



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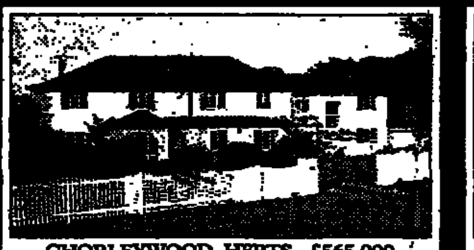

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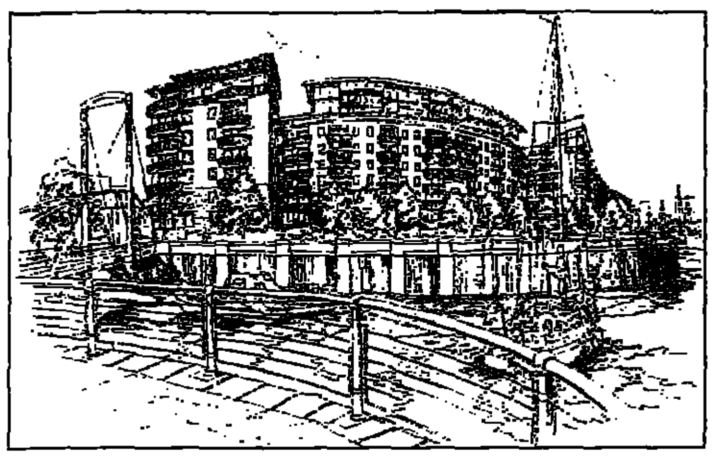


New development at Deptford Creek, once the site of shipbuilders

Walking along the quiet Thames-side streets of Deptford, it is hard to imagine that this *area of south London once housed a* bustling community of shipwrights and traders, and was the site of one *of the most important dockyards in* Britain.

It was here in the 16th century that Henry VIII cradled his navy at the royal dock and here that Elizabeth I came to inspect Francis Drake's ship, the *Golden Hind*, when she conferred a knighthood on the captain.

She also granted the East India Company its first charter in 1600 and, a year later, the company fitted out its first four ships at Deptford, using the profits to buy a *site next to the royal dock. It was in* this yard that its trading ships were repaired and provisioned for their long journey east.

Then, as the wooden fighting ships grew bigger and heavier, the navy's builders needed a wider river and the royal yard moved down river, first to Woolwich and then to Chatham, while the East India Company finally moved *away from the docks in 1782.*

More than 200 years later, Deptford is coming up in the world again. *An extension of the Dock*lands Light Railway is due to open shortly after the millennium, providing easy access to the City, and the area's Georgian sea captain's houses are being restored as are the many high-quality period buildings on the high street, prompting a lot of interest from buyers.

Building work is also about to start on the site of the old dockyard, *which will eventually provide 650* flats and houses. The centrepiece of the development by Fairview New Homes is a seven-storey block of designer luxury flats with river views, complete with glass-walled penthouses.

But before the builders move in, a team of archaeologists has been allowed to excavate the site, and has unearthed the remains of the old East India Company dockyard. So far, two timber slipways have been revealed along with a riverside wall. They are built of reused ships' timbers, and the team believes it should be possible to discover a great deal about how ships were built in the 17th and 18th centuries.

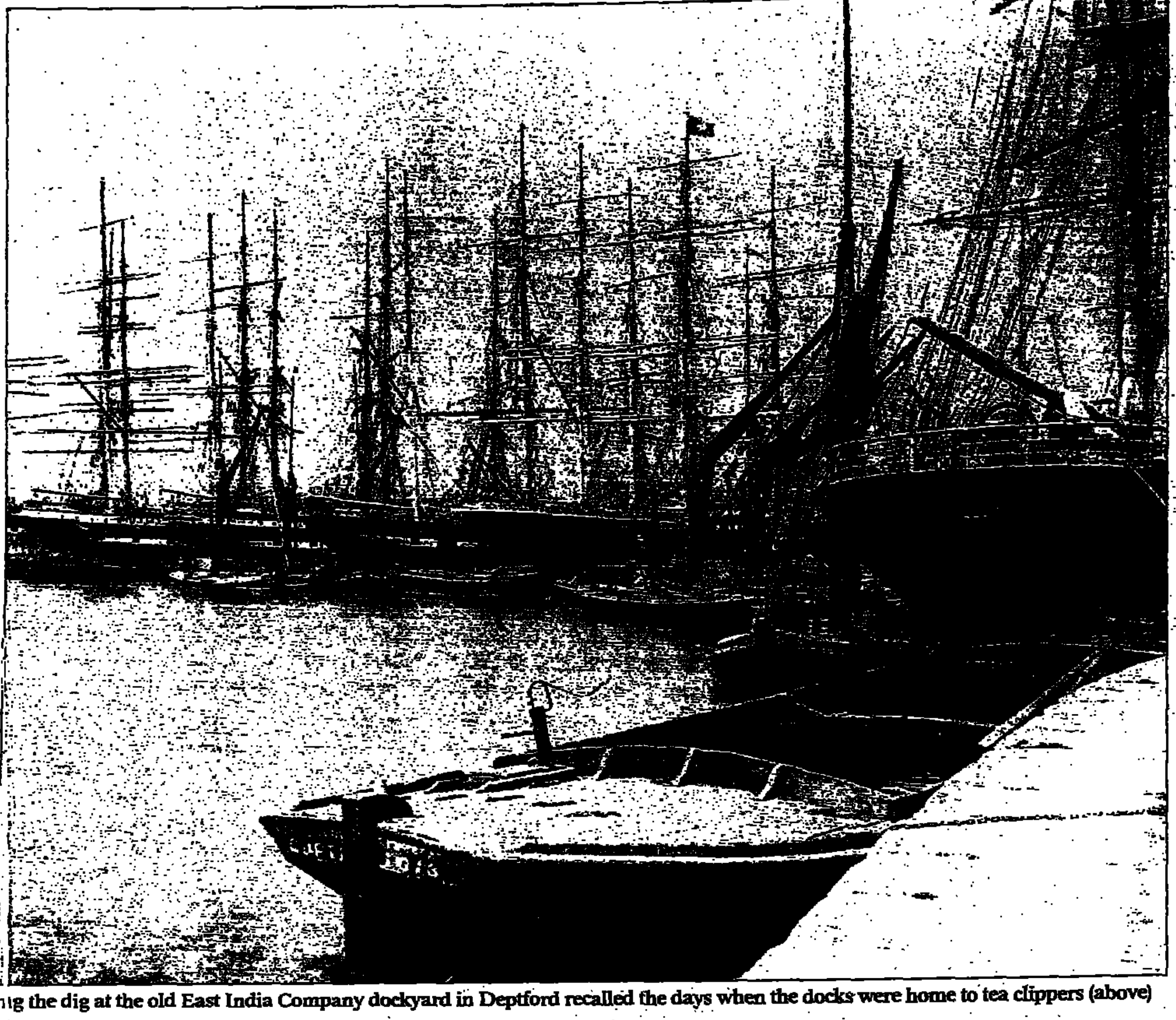
Elsewhere, on the far side of the *site, the team has discovered* a complex of almshouses built for seamen's widows during the 16th to *18th* centuries. *The patterned tile* floors are still intact and many of the former inhabitants' possessions — including sewing needles and pottery — have been found scattered nearby.

The widows were employed to mend sails or make clothes, it seems, and it is an interesting thought that the last time anybody looked at those needles, the play*wright Christopher Marlowe was* getting into deep trouble around the corner: he was assassinated in a Deptford tavern.

The archaeologists say they are surprised by the quality and extent of the find, partly because, until it was demolished recently, the site was under the massive bulk of Deptford power station, the world's first, built in 1889 by Sebastian de *Ferranti.*

The team moves out next month and building work will start soon after, with the phased development completed by 2002.

HULTON DEUTSCH



An anchor (left) discovered during the dig at the old East India Company dockyard in Deptford recalled the days when the docks were home to tea clippers (above)

GLOUCESTER

Repossessions usually come in the form of run-down flats in out-of-the-way parts of big cities, but a Gloucestershire estate agent is soon to launch Britain's first repossessed Roman villa on the market.

The villa takes up most of the three-quarter acre garden of a cottage in the village of Wortley.

In 1980 Paul Cory, the then owner, was digging a hole for a new fence post when he found a piece of mosaic floor. He reported his find to a group of local enthusiasts and for the next few years they carried out some small diggings in the garden. Then the *professionals moved in and disc*overed the remains of an entire villa.

Most of the villa has yet to be excavated, *but the work was forced* to a premature halt when the house was repossessed earlier this year. During the summer, part of the dig became overgrown.

Archaeologists uncover a Roman villa at a cottage in Wortley

Although recognised as an important archaeological site, the villa is not protected by English Heritage. *When the house is eventually* sold there will be nothing to stop the new owners shutting their doors to the researchers and burying the remains under a new lawn.

The house, known locally as Thatched Cottage, dates from the 14th century and is believed to have *been built from stone taken from* the villa. It was put on the market in spring this year through Humberts' Tetbury office at an asking price *of £220,000, but was repos*sessed before a buyer could be found. Since then it has been at the centre of a legal dispute.

"We did have a buyer earlier this year, but it fell through because of the problems at the time. Hopefully it will soon be resolved," says Edward Bagnall, of Humberts.

According to English Heritage, there are an estimated 2,600 archaeological digs in Britain, ranging from small local projects to large sites of national importance. The Thatched Cottage is not the only house with archaeologists at the bottom of the garden, but not all householders would choose to open *their garden to researchers.*

The chances are you will not be forced to allow an army of trowel-waving students on to your land, *but there may be problems if you* decide you want an ornamental pond, or to put an extension on the property. If English Heritage thought the site sufficiently important, you could be refused planning permission.

In some cases, planning consent is given on condition that the archaeologists are allowed in first, but the homeowner may be expect*ed to pay for the cost of the dig.* Once a site has been excavated and the findings documented, the area can then *be back-filled and used for* whatever purpose the homeowner intends. This is what is happening on the Deptford site.

However, new buildings sometimes have to be built on piles rather than conventional foundations so as to minimise the damage *to the remains below, putting up* the cost of construction.

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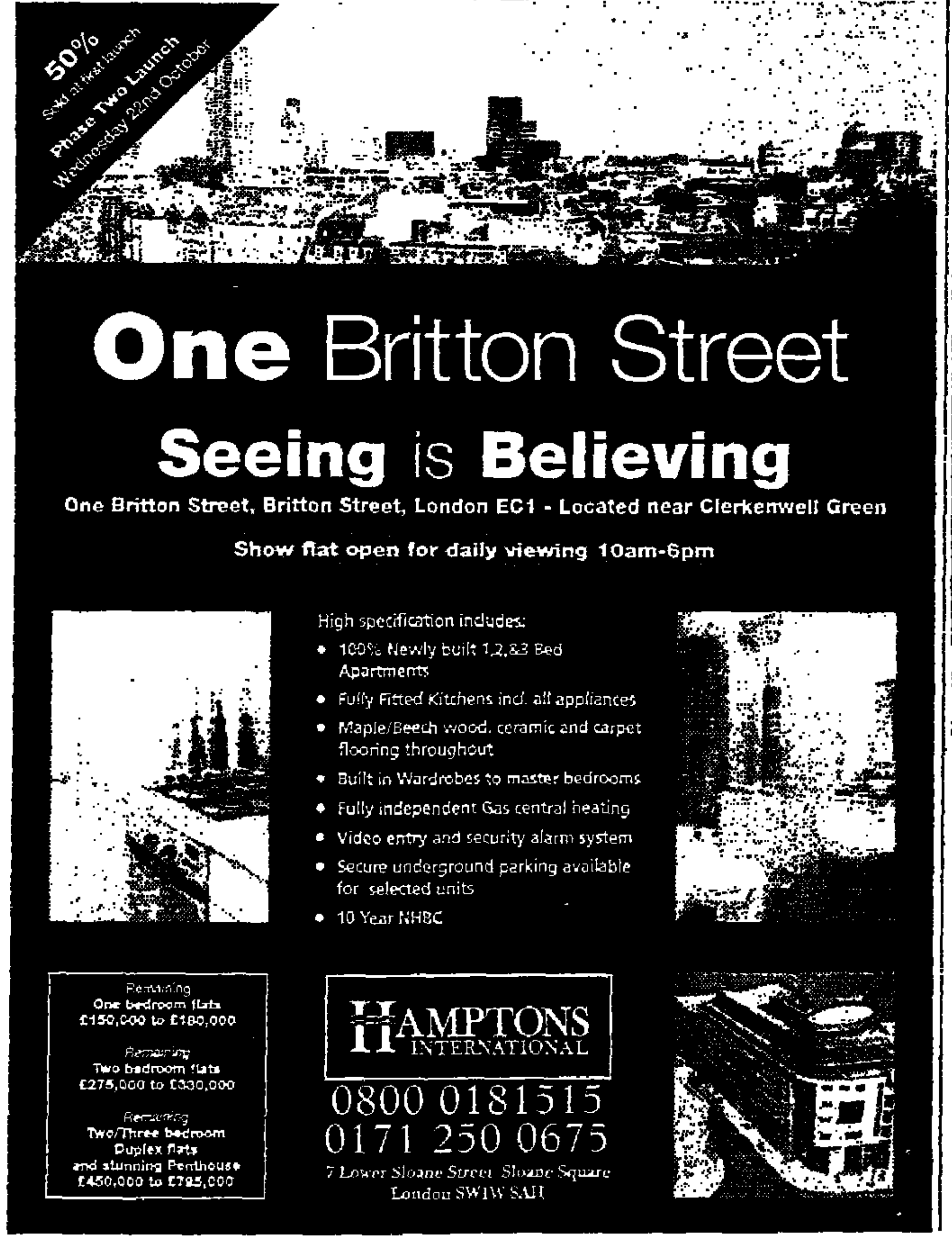

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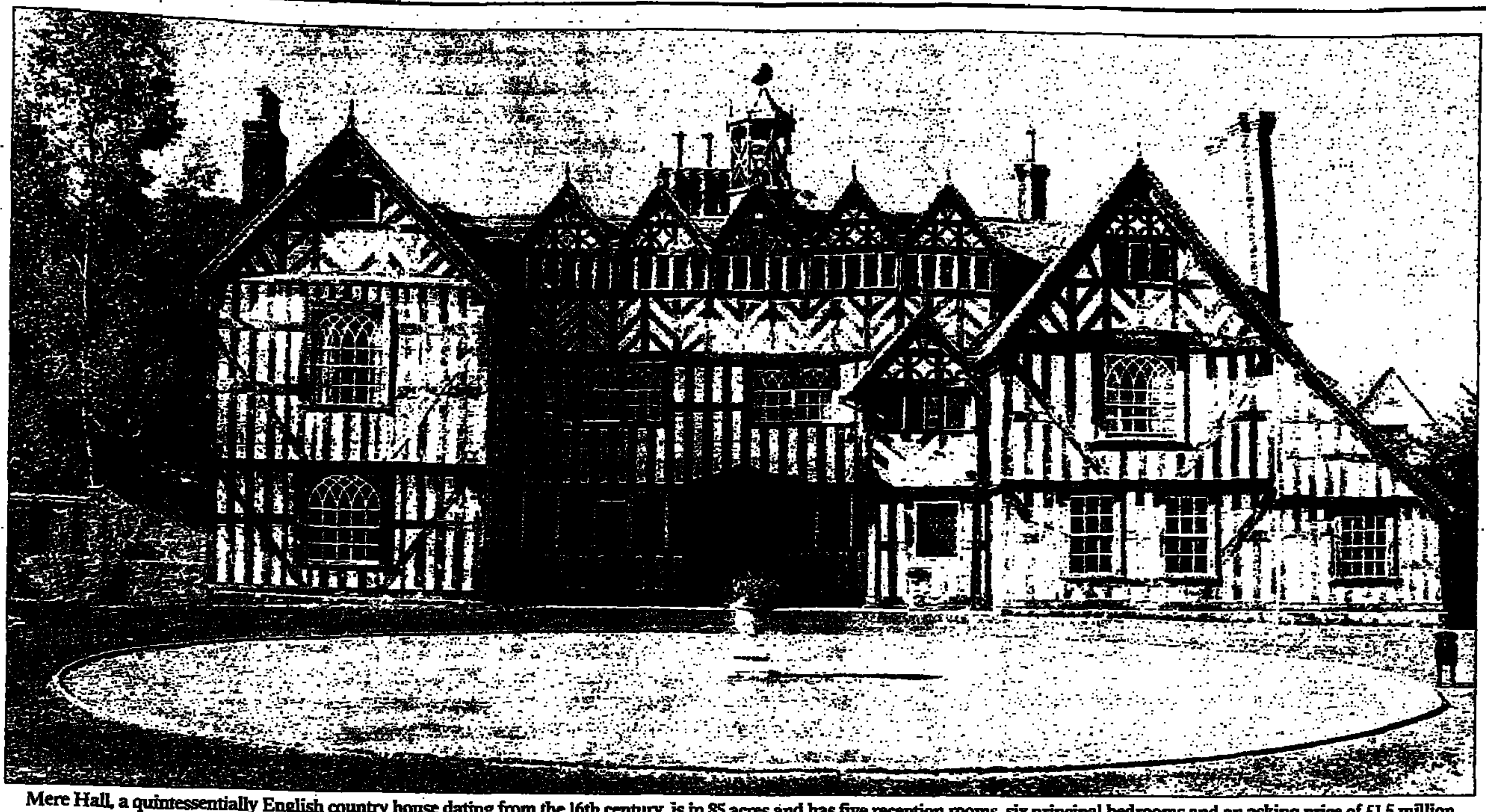


Mere Hall, a quintessentially English country house dating from the 16th century, is in 85 acres and has five reception rooms, six principal bedrooms and an asking price of £1.5 million

The old hall with a star billing

Mere Hall, setting for *Shadowlands* and inspiration for Grey Gables in *The Archers*, is for sale

NEWSTEAM

Above: details from the hall's decoration

Left: the panelled dining room also has a superb carved fire surround.

KEITH HAMSHERE

Anthony Hopkins and Debra Winger in *Shadowlands*, shot at Mere Hall

The wardrobes are not for sale. And on my visit to Mere Hall I did not, in fact, crawl inside one to see if I might find myself swept behind the coats into a mysterious wood lit by a solitary lamppost. I suppose it would have been doubtful: the hall's connection to Narnia is not exactly direct — four years ago the film crew of *Shadowlands* swept down on it for a day and Anthony Hopkins strode down the drive impersonating C.S. Lewis. But the hall is rather a magical place, none the less.

It is little wonder that Sir Richard Attenborough chose the house as the epitome of an English exterior. Driving through the suburbs of Britain one sees enough plumb-straight modern "half-timbering" to put you off the look for life, but Mere Hall, near Droitwich in Worcestershire, is listed Grade I and is one of the finest houses of its kind in the country. It is a reminder of the eccentric beauty of this quintessentially English style.

You can see the house as soon as you turn down the drive; once its face was obscured by a stand of elms, but Dutch elm disease killed them off and now limes and poplars are slowly growing to replace them. The house is striking, black and white against the green of the Worcestershire countryside. Its interior, too, has a film-set quality, but no set designer had laid a hand on the dark Elizabethan panelling that lines many of the ground-floor rooms.

When we arrived there was no one, at first, to meet us: but the great wooden front door was open, and inside there was a fire blazing in the hearth and plate of biscuits set out on the table. A deer's head, mounted on the panelling above the fireplace, cast a baleful eye on us — but not so malevolent, perhaps, as those of the fine dragons carved into the wood. This fire surround is one of several on the ground: the best is in the dining room, a voluptuous concoction decorated with winding vines and bare-breasted caryatids; in the sitting room, mythical Green Men peer out at the visitor.

Until a few years ago, many of the visitors were *Archers* fans, because the Grey Gables country house hotel was modelled on Mere Hall.

That the house has so many original features is in part because it remained in the same family for more than 600 years. The present owners, the Stearns, have loved and cared for it for 16 years, and are only the third owners. From its earliest incarnation in 1337 (a beam with this date carved into it can just be made out over the front door, but may have been added at a later date since the house's face is clearly 16th century) it belonged to the Bearcrofts, who built it and owned all the land around. A portrait of the last Colonel Bearcroft hangs in the hall; the Jack Russell at his feet is buried in the garden. That the main rooms of the house are in such good shape is probably due to this continuity, though when the Stearns bought it the house had fallen into disrepair and needed restoration.

Edward and Anita Stearn have twin daughters who have grown and gone, which is why they are selling the house. The guide price of £1.5 million includes the house — with its five reception rooms, six principal bedrooms, a separate wing with three more bedrooms and a maze of attic rooms — and 85 acres of land, much of it woodland; plus tennis courts, a pool, stabling and formal gardens, with the lake that gives the house its name. There is potential for planning permission to build a lodge.

Despite its size it feels a liveable house: the bedrooms, with their Georgian panelling, are comfortable rather than grand. The kitchen/breakfast room — where sections of the old wattle-and-daub walling have been exposed and covered with glass — is heated by an enormous red Aga, and is the kind of room you never want to leave. Hooks for hanging hams protrude from the exposed beams. Nothing makes quite a straight line.

At the top of the house, where the attic rooms create the illusion of an Elizabethan "long gallery" when viewed from the outside (Nikolaus Pevsner thought this a very clever trick), there is a warren of storage rooms, some too low to stand up in.

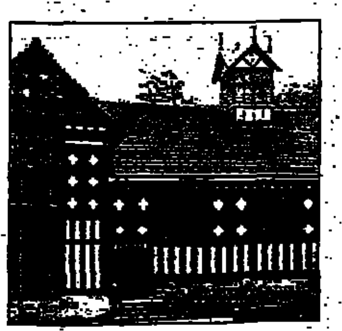
Upstairs, too, is the mechanism for the striking clock built by John Moore and Sons of Clerkenwell in the 19th century which still chimes the hour from a cupola above the front door. Ticking gently for more than a century in a low-ceilinged room scented with plaster and wood, the beautiful clock, as much as anything in the house, seems a link to a vanished and shadowy past.

ERICA WAGNER

● *Agents: Jackson-Stops and Staff (01386 840234) and Quantrills (0121-354 9229).*

FAMOUS TIMBERS

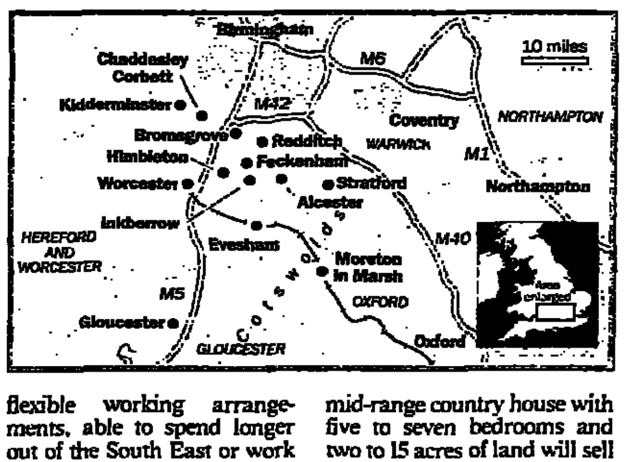
TERESA GORMAN, Conservative MP for Billericay, lives in a Grade II listed part-Tudor farmhouse (right) in Orsett, Essex. The semi-derelict 15th-century house was bought for £170,000, and more than £130,000 has been spent on the property.



RUFFORD Old Hall, Rufford, Lancashire (left), a half-timbered manor house built in 1420, was bequeathed by the First Baron Hesketh to the National Trust in 1936. Today only the main hall survives in its original form but it is said that Shakespeare once performed there.

WILL CARLING, the former England rugby captain, lives with his partner, Ali Cockayne and her son in a timber-framed, cottage-style country house (right) in Dorney, Buckinghamshire. The property, valued at £500,000, has five bedrooms and a large garden.

MARKET COMMENT



THE WEST MIDLANDS market is a broad regional one, stretching from Worcester and the M5 to Stratford-upon-Avon and the M40 in the east, and from the M42 south towards the Cotswolds.

But the dominant players here are the indigenous population and Birmingham-based business people; the area has enjoyed strong economic growth recently, attracting a flow of professionals relocating from the South East. With rail journeys from London to Worcester taking between three and four hours, the area remains largely beyond the pale for London commuters and the Cotswold/Gloucestershire weekend-cottage brigade (though proximity to the Cotswold line linking Paddington to Worcester and Hereford is an undoubted attraction for buyers).

As a consequence, it has not seen the development of the "honeypot" villages (Broadway, Bourton-on-the-Water, the Slaughters) that pull such crowds of hopeful purchasers and tourists in the Cotswolds, and this makes for a price differential of about 15 per cent, says Kevin Mason of the estate agents Knight Frank. But he adds that an increasing number of buyers with more flexible working arrangements, able to spend longer out of the South East or work from home, are being seduced by the relative value for money they can find in the area.

Lower prices apply across the board: Peter Britton of Jackson-Stops & Staff believes that Mere Hall (see above), on the market at £1.5 million, would have seen a guide price of £2 million-plus if it had been in Gloucestershire, attracting a wider wealthy contingent from London and the Home Counties. Given the West Midlands location, however, he believes that interest in a Grade I property like this is likely to come either from the well-heeled burghers of Birmingham or from specialist purchasers around the country who are on the hunt for a gem.

Further down the scale, a mid-range country house with five to seven bedrooms and two to 15 acres of land will sell in the West Midlands for £300,000 to £600,000. A three-bedroom cottage with a pretty garden (prime weekending material), in a popular spot such as Feckenham, Inkberrow, Himbleton or the area around Chaddesley Corbett, could be picked up for £150,000 to £210,000.

But agents emphasise that the regional market, while strong, is not speculative: there is keen interest in quality, well-maintained properties, but not at any price. Nor is there much sign of a renovation renaissance: today's buyers would rather pay well for mod cons and everything in full working order than rebuild a ruined bargain.

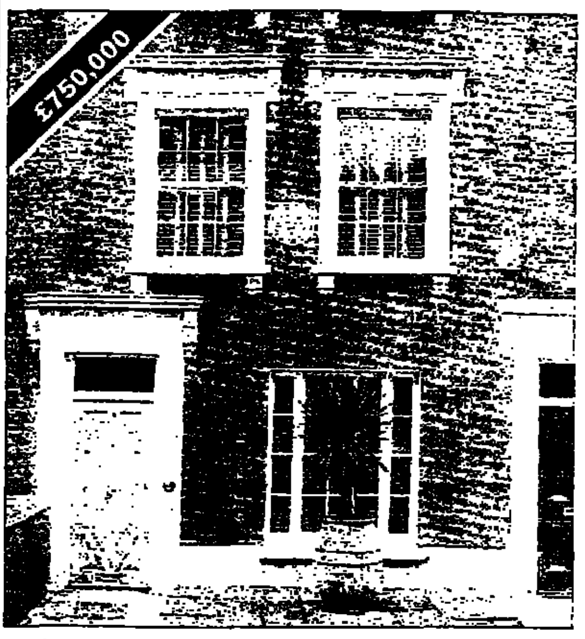
FAITH GLASGOW

HOME SWAP

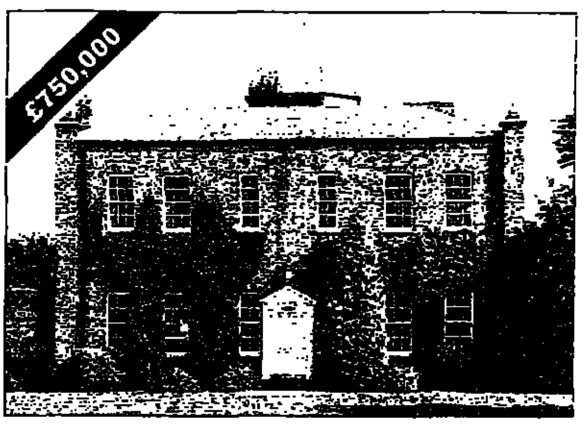
A shortage of good houses for sale in Fulham, west London, fuelled price gains of up to 20 per cent in the first half of this year. With more property on the market, City buyers are no longer prepared to pay over the odds to secure the right house and prices have stabilised. The smartest address on the Peterborough estate will set you back up to £900,000 for a five-bedroom Victorian terraced house. Around Hurlingham and Bishops Park, large semi-detached Edwardian houses fetch from £500,000 to £1.25 million.

Hot spots in Suffolk include the river Stour valley-Constable country around East Bergholt, Higham and Dedham, just over the border in Essex. Timber-framed medieval houses with up to six bedrooms from £300,000 to £500,000 are selling fast to London buyers who commute from Colchester to Liverpool Street in 50 minutes. Georgian country houses with up to ten acres cost from £500,000 to £1 million following price increases of up to 20 per cent this year, according to estate agent Savills.

There is a distinct lack of froth on the property market in Cheshire. However, period country houses in Manchester's former stockbroker belt, around Alderley Edge, Knutsford and Prestbury, costing from £600,000 to £1.25 million, continue to attract successful business people and prices have risen 10 per cent this year. In the Peckforton Hills, around Tarporley, a six-bedroom country house in 10 acres can be still had from £450,000, says Strutt & Parker.



This imaginatively transformed four-bedroom Victorian terraced house in Rumbold Road, Fulham, west London—once the home of actor Kenneth Moore and still owned by his widow Angela Douglas and Bill Bryden—is for sale at £750,000. It has a 50ft walled garden and two garages (Savills, 0171 591 5725).



In Cheshire, £750,000 will buy Whatcroft Hall, a five-bedroom Grade II* listed Georgian house in 13 acres of garden and paddocks, in an attractive rural location, bordering the Trent and Mersey Canal, near Northwich, 24 miles from Manchester (Strutt & Parker, 01244 320747).

For the same price you could buy Preston Hall, a six-bedroom Grade II listed Elizabethan manor house in 11 acres of walled gardens and paddocks, overlooking undulating countryside, near Lavenham, Suffolk. It comes with stabling, tack room, barn/garaging, heated swimming pool and summerhouse (Savills, 01473 226191).

CHERYL TAYLOR

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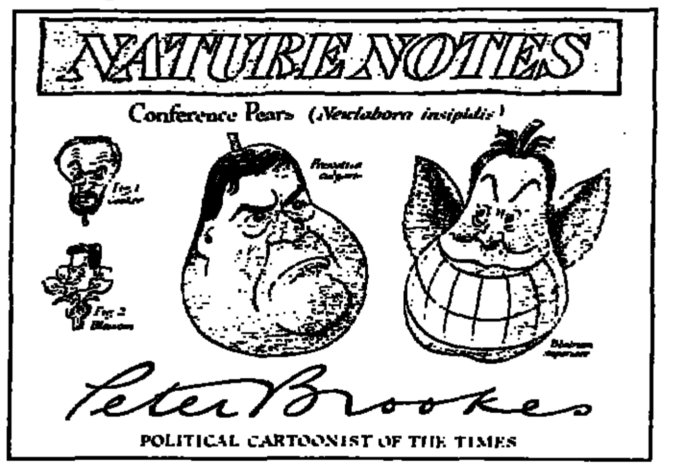
NATURE NOTES
Conference Pears (Newlabora insipidis)
Peter Brookes
POLITICAL CARTOONIST OF THE TIMES

In 1996, Political Cartoonist of the Year Peter Brookes launched a series of cartoons in *The Times* on Saturdays called Nature Notes - brilliantly executed drawings of both domestic MPs and international leaders as members of a weird and wonderful world. A menagerie in a vegetable patch, the world of Nature Notes is a place where the great and the good can and do become the small and the furry: Boris Yeltsin as a Muscovy (lame) duck; Ian Paisley as an Orange-utan ('Devours all greenery'); and Baroness Thatcher as a rabid old bat ('its venom is of European origin, and any bite can prove gravely injurious to grey-haired, bespectacled gentlemen'). Anything is possible - John Prescott can even become a Great Tit.

Nature Notes brings together more than 50 of the first Nature Notes cartoons to appear in *The Times*. Covering the period from February 1996 to June 1997, just after Labour's historic landslide victory in the General Election, each cartoon takes as its theme a news story of the time — among them Tory splits, sleaze and Euro-bickering; Labour's path to power, BSE, Budgets and Britannia, as well as crime and royalty.

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Some owners treat miniatures like dogs, says the RSPCA

'It's not a glorified lawnmower'

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Miniature horses may be cute, but it's feared some people want them for the wrong reasons, says **Jack Crossley**

"Like a beautiful racehorse seen through the wrong end of a telescope" or "a stocky table with a leg on each corner". "So cute they make you go weak at the knees" or "an abomination — a horse reduced to the size of a labrador".

Miniature horses, bred over the years to be small, cute and petite, polarise opinion in the world of horse-lovers.

But one thing is certain — little horses are big business. The smaller they come, the bigger the price. To be classed as miniature, they have to be 34in high or less, and they don't come any tinier than at the toyhorse stud run by Tikki Adorian, who is staging the biggest British auction of miniatures today.

Mrs Adorian is chairman of the British Miniature Horse Society, which she founded in 1992 with one member. Now the BMHS has 1,500 horses on its books. She has bred, and still owns, the tiniest horse in the world: toyhorse Countess Natushka, 27in high and known as Tushie.

Today, hundreds of people are expected to see Tushie and other miniatures at her stud farm at Howick, near Billingshurst, West Sussex, and somewill be prepared to pay from £250 to several thousand pounds to owe one. However, anybody wanting to tempt Mrs Adorian to part with Tushie would have pay about £10,000.

Lin Whitehouse, from Essex, is prepared to spend £3,000. "I bought two toy horses six years ago, thinking they would be fun — and useful to mow the lawn," she says. "But owning miniature horses turned out to be contagious and now I can't wait to get to the auction again."

As well as being "cute" and "a lovely mover", a good-quality miniature Shetland will have a short, strong back and powerful hind legs and hocks (knees — where the propulsion comes from). But there are those who fear that the fashion for breeding "fine" miniatures might be going too far, sacrificing strength for beauty. When Mrs Adorian's 30in Count Cappuccino became this year's supreme champion, judge Anthony Thomas Chambers told me: "I was looking for beauty and strength, perhaps 50-50. Breeders who go for fineness often reduce strength."

Mr Chambers's concern is echoed by the RSPCA, which is worried that breeding from a small gene pool may cause genetic disorders.

"Some people wish to obtain miniature horses because they can have them in the house or the car and treat them in a manner more appropriate for a dog," says Mr Chambers.

Above: Tikki Adorian with her prize miniature. Unlike the RSPCA, she says toyhorses can be ridden and used to pull cariages

Left: Rebecca Lewis, 6, puts her horse, Lewingale Peanut's Yearling, through its paces

"There is a also greater risk of genetic disorders resulting from breeding from a smaller gene pool. The relationship a person will have with a miniature horse is likely to be different from that normally established between owners and horses because of their size, and the RSPCA believes that this may lead to welfare problems for the animals."

Lucy Wykeham, from the International League for the Protection of Horses, says: "I think you run into congenital problems if you are miniaturising something all the time. Some miniatures being bred now are about the size of a labrador and it is getting ridiculous.

"The ILPH asks people not to buy miniatures as pets. Many are bred for showing, and perhaps that is where their future lies — but not as a glorified lawnmower. Any horse is a commitment — fees can add up to £1,500 a year."

But Mrs Adorian says the costs are different for every owner: "£1,500 a year is nonsense; £300 is nearer the mark," she says.

"As for concerns about genetic disorders, that's scaremongering. We have a 24-hour helpline and people may ring us up with any problem. None has been linked to genetic disorders."

Should children ride them? Never, say some. Only children below four stone, say others. A strong, fit miniature will enjoy carrying up to seven stone, says Mrs Adorian. Should they pull people in carriages? Not desirable, say some. Again, Mrs Adorian disagrees — and is holding a two-day driving school on November 11 and 18.

FACT FILE

IF YOU intend to buy a miniature it is worth considering the advice in the guidelines for first-time buyers printed in the Toyhorse auction catalogue:

- ■ Miniatures should be treated exactly the same as other equines.
- ■ They need ample nourishment from grassland between April and November. When stabled, feed them on quality hay, coarse horse-mix or a mixture of soaked sugar beet and crushed oats in very small amounts — 1-3lb per feed depending on age and size. Parasite control is recommended every eight weeks and hooves need regular paring.
- ■ At Howick, weanlings are generally stabled at night but nearly all other stock is wintered in sheltered pastures.
- ■ Should a young colt become rather a handful, it may well benefit from being gelded.

A VET WRITES

Q **Guy Fawkes is almost upon us and, like thousands of pet owners, I have to look forward to a fraught week — or more. My two cats retire to one of the bedrooms when the bangers start but Bessie, my Cocker spaniel, is terrified. She cowers underneath the settee, trembles and cannot settle. My vet says he can give me tranquillisers for her if I *insist* but doesn't think this solves anything. What should I do?**

A It isn't reasonable to keep Bessie tranquillised for a week, and tranquillisers can't be switched on and off as and when the bangers stop and start. Close the curtains at dusk. Switch the radio or TV on to high volume to provide a counter-noise. Give Bessie a bigger supper than normal. A full stomach is a wonderful sedative. Keep calm yourself — dogs respond to their owner's reactions. When she goes out just before bedtime, keep her on the lead and make sure her collar is tight enough — dogs slip out of loose collars. And tell Bessie she's a disgrace to gundogs. Bangs from gunshots are part of their lives. Excitement is acceptable, but terror — *never*.

Q **My cat Sooky keeps getting tapeworms although I worm her every three months. The vet says she will keep getting worms so long as she has fleas. I don't understand the connection.**

A The common tapeworm of cats, *Dipylidium*, has a two-stage lifecycle. The adult worms live in cats but the juvenile form is a cyst within a flea. The melon-seed-shaped wriggly segments you see around Sooky's rear end are ripe segments, full of eggs, detached from the tail of the tapeworm. They dry up, the eggs are shed, and when a flea eats an egg, a tapeworm cyst develops in the flea. Then Sooky swallows this infected flea and the next generation of *Dipylidium* grows in her intestine. Which is why flea control is essential.

A different tapeworm infects hunting cats — one of the *Taenia* species. The cyst stage occurs in a shrew or vole which has swallowed tapeworm eggs passed by a cat. When this infected shrew is caught and eaten by the cat, a *Teania* tapeworm develops.

Carry on with the worming, but remember that tapeworms don't cause ill-health in cats.

Q **What's the best bedding for a tortoise hibernation box? Last year we used hay for Speedy, our spur-thighed tortoise, and he woke, fit as a fiddle, last spring. But I've been told that hay can be dangerous. Is this true — and if so, why?**

A Hay and damp straw may develop mould fungi of the *Aspergillus* group, which can cause respiratory infections in tortoises as well as in man, cattle and birds. Less "natural" materials, such as shredded paper, polystyrene granules or wood wool, are much safer. A couple of ceiling tiles beneath Speedy's box will stop the cold striking from below and you should try to keep his winter quarters a few degrees above freezing but below 9C.

JAMES ALLCOCK

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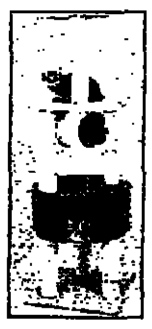

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Paradise for little boys is a collection of farm machinery, a workshop filled with vicious tools and a pocket full of chocolates

A farmer is a boy's best friend

Mr Probably-better-off-without-him-in-the-long-run having apparently decided once and for all that nothing I can offer could possibly live up to the allure of his leaky septic tank, I went off in a sulk to Wiltshire, to visit Charles-who-farms. There is nothing Charles likes better than a *sad girl*, and he was immediately able to shed valuable light on the reasons for my tragic history of romantic reverses. "It's yer cooking," *he said.* "It's horrible. Full of garlic and what are those awful little black things? Olives. Pftheugh. Disgusting. Have some more cabbage."

So we ate up our cabbage (delicious) and went off for a stroll with the dogs in the late autumn sunshine, across his *fields* of maize and Jerusalem artichokes and newly planted rape. The whole scene was too ludicrously pretty for words — the brilliant blue sky, *the hedges* full of sloes and blackberries and rosehips and Old Man's beard, the black figures of the dogs, galloping ahead of us, working the spinneys and putting up pheasants and partridges, to half-hearted roars of disapproval from Charles.

"*Aren't they beautiful,*" he said dreamily, as the affronted birds strutted away across the furrows. "And the Tuesday after next — Pow! Pow! Pow!"

"Pow! Pow!" echoed Alexander, who adores Charles — and you can just see why. For a start, he has a collection of farm machinery to die for — disc harrows and balers and combines and tractors, on which Alexander is allowed to ride for hours at a stretch (the notion *that one could ever have had enough of* fiddling with the controls of a John Deere being as alien to Charles as it is to my son). Also, he has a workshop full of vicious bandsaws that could cut a little boy right down the middle in less time than it takes to say ouch. These we gaze at for more hours, with frissons of pleasurable horror, until I start whining to be taken home.

Then there are Charles's *pockets*, full of the most amazing treasures: cartridges and nails and, on this occasion, a Roman coin, millions and millions of years old, from the days before Thomas the Tank Engine roamed the earth — the pocket money of some little Roman boy who had dropped it in Charles's field on his way to the toy shop to buy a chariot.

But actually, I suspect that the thing Alexander likes best *of all about Charles* is his short way with me. Gosh, it's getting awfully chilly, I say, in my usual bossy fashion. Perhaps we'd better go in now. That's enough playing on the combine, darling; I expect Charles has got other things to do. Sit *down. No of course you can't have any* pudding, you haven't eaten up your firsts. No more sweeties, Alexander. I *mean it.*

"Mmm," says Charles, paying no more attention to me than if I were a gnat, buzzing in his ear. "Let's walk round to the other duckpond and see if we can find some newts, shall we? What do you think happens if you press *this* button? What sort of pudding would you like? Ice cream and toffee sauce, *perhaps?* Never mind about those carrots. Nasty things. Never eat them meself. Ah, I seem to have found some more chocolate buttons in this pocket . . ." It is a *wonderfully effective method of dealing* with me, and Alexander seems to have adopted it as his very own.

LIFE AND SOUL

JANE SHILLING

I have been thinking for quite some time that my disciplinary techniques were due for a spot of reviewing. Up until now they have been loosely based on a brief encounter I once witnessed on the telly between Lord Hailsham and his Jack Russell. "I am," said the rubicund peer to his beady-eyed, sceptical little dog, "bigger and stronger and cleverer than you".

This worked very well all the time I *was bigger and stronger and* cleverer than my offspring. But lately I have noticed the balance of power beginning to shift. He is a slender child, but very solid, and perfectly capable of bringing me down with a low tackle, as he discovered just the other week. Also, he has quite suddenly become extremely argumentative and makes little attempt to conceal the fact that he thinks I am a *half-wit.*

We had a little difference of opinion on our return home from Charles's. Bedtime, I said, as we got out of the car. It is late. Not yet, said the child, he had urgent business to attend to. So attend to it in the morning, I said, grasping him by the *collar and grappling him, with* considerable difficulty, up the stairs and into his pyjamas. Then I turned the light off, shut the door, and went back downstairs, securing the stairgate behind me. As I reached the bottom step, I heard the click of him turning the light back on again.

I poured myself a glass of something, and was just sitting down for a minute before tackling the next bit of the Great Rolling List (clean shoes, iron school trousers, remember to put homework in bag) when the drawing-room door half-*opened, with a ghastly creak (this kind of* horror-movie sound effect is a speciality of the fittings in our house).

"Who is it?" I quavered.

"It's us," said Alexander, trotting in, grasping his disgusting old panda by the leg and looking every inch the adorable *innocent*, with his tousled gold curls and his little winceyette pyjamas with the soldiers printed all over them.

Dear God, I said. But *how did you get* out? I closed the stairgate most particularly.

"I know," said my little lamb. "But I shot it off, the way Charles showed me. Pow! Pow! Pow!"

Reunited after 45 years, Jonathan Mirsky and guardian Ernst Mirsky (below, with his father) had tried for decades to find Ernst through phone books

Cast the Net to catch a friend

After fruitless years of searching for an old family friend, **Jonathan Mirsky** turned to his PC and found him via the Internet

Hooray for Yahoo! More particularly, hooray for Yahoo People Search. You *may think that* the World Wide Web is for porn-seekers and scrutineers of bulletin boards specialising in racing pigeons. But if, like me, you had been searching for someone for almost 50 years and found them in five seconds via Yahoo, spoke to them, and then *met* them, Yahoo becomes a friend for life.

In 1935, when I was two, my parents *went* to China, where my father was to be a visiting professor at the Peking Union Medical College. They took my seven-year-old sister but left me in California with Marie, a 16-year-old German girl who my father taught to read and write, and Ernst, a *25-year-old cabinet-maker*, who had been born in Germany but came to America as a small child.

When my parents returned months later I didn't recognise them, spoke only German, and soon developed the stammer which paralysed me into my teens. We all returned to New York, with Marie, who got married in about 1939, and Ernst, who set up a cabinet-making *shop down the street* and remained a near-father to my sister and me until he got married in 1951 and *moved* out of our lives. Over the years, whenever my sister or I went to another city, we looked in the *telephone* book for Ernst and would report to the other that, yet again, we hadn't found him. Eventually, when we realised he must be a very old man and probably dead, we gave up the search and memories of Ernst faded. There were no photographs.

Enter Yahoo. Yahoo is a "search engine" on the Web, a tool for finding your way around this gigantic network. Exploring it soon after it was installed last spring, I discovered People Search. I figured why not; what the hell . . . *I typed in Ernst's* entire name and guessed California. Zap! There he was, in a small Californian town, with address and phone number (Yahoo must contain every telephone number in the United States).

It was 2am in California, but after 45 years who could *wait? I* rang. *A* voice. "Hello. Is that Ernst who used to be a friend of the Mirskys?" "Yes." "Ernst! This is Jonathan." "Well, Jonathan. I certainly wasn't expecting to hear from you. Where are you?" "Hong Kong." "Really . . . then this must be a long-distance call." "Well, yes Ernst, I found you in my computer." "Ah, computers. I hear *they're wonderful things.* Well, *I just* got a new passport. I think I'll come there next week." "Ernst, next week we're going to be handed over to China and I'm pretty busy. How about in November, for my 65th birthday?" "That's good, I'll come then; 65, well well. I'm *89. See you* soon." And so on.

It was now 5am in New York. But after 45 years . . . I rang my sister. "Grunt." "Reba, it's me. Amazing news. If you could talk to anyone in the world right now, who would you call?" "Ernst, of course." "Here's his number. He's waiting to hear from you." She called him and, like me, learnt that Ernst — always a matter-of-fact sort of man — had eaten oatmeal for breakfast that day, had a haircut, and a tuna-salad sandwich for lunch.

One day his daughter called to say he *had fallen over, broken his hip* and was in hospital. Soon she told me he had pneumonia and perhaps had *had a stroke.* Hospitals often kill the old. I flew to California. Ernst had insisted on meeting me in his daughter's house, and there he was, asleep. I gazed down on him, lying on his side in all his clothes, including his shoes, and with an enormous white walrus moustache instead of the neat little Errol Flynn number I dimly recalled.

'They trusted me. There was always a place for me at supper. And we took all our summer holidays together'

When he woke up we *spent* two days talking. He had photographs of the Mirsky family starting in 1935.

How had this young cabinet-maker from California become such a close friend of my biochemist father and harpsichordist mother that they entrusted me to him, not only while they were in Peking but as a second father for the next ten years?

By the time he was 16, Ernst was a *union-qualified carpenter; soon he* was building sets in Hollywood for *Laurel and Hardy*, the laugh-hits of the late-1920s. "We built entire houses of balsa wood, which collapsed on the actors in earthquakes that we made happen on specially constructed vibrating *platforms. We made* locomotives which crashed into other locomotives."

Then something — unexplained — "really terrible" happened to Ernst. "I left home and became a hobo, riding the rails for two years all over the West. I learnt where to hop off trains before the railway police caught you, which towns had a friendly family, *who would give a hobo* a handout of pie or chicken and maybe a dollar."

After two years on the rails Ernst came to New York with three dollars in his pocket. "The first day I passed a place where they were setting up a Jewish charity bazaar and there was a Mrs Solomon, who gave me a job building cabinets and tables — and introduced me to your aunt Bashka *the sculptress, who needed some* shelves. That's how I met your mother."

My parents asked Ernst to build them some furniture and introduced him to friends and relations who needed similar work. "In those days rich people had expensive French furniture they wanted copied. I'd knock it apart, build a replica, cast and reproduce the hardware. I'd write 'original' on the bottom of the real one."

And Ernst entered my family. "They trusted me. It began with my work and my *attitude towards it. If* there is something people always wanted, not just a thing but a way of making it, and you give that, they never forget it. So soon I had my shop down the street from your parents' apartment. But there was always a place for me at supper. And we took all our summer holidays together." Ernst remembered me, age four, in *the ocean off Cape Breton island.* "I watched you in those waves but I could never have saved you — I couldn't swim."

In Ernst's faded photographs of him and my family he is always *more formally dressed than* anyone else, except in holiday scenes. I remember sitting in his shop, smelling the bubbling glue made of horses' hoofs and watching him turn chair-legs on his lathe. I felt safe. My father was a violent man, although soft-spoken with outsiders. I asked Ernst if he remembered my stammer. He hesitated; it was his only negative observation of our time together. "I remember. It was your father. I'd say he was crude."

Crude! Relief rolled over me. Over the decades my sister and I grew tired of being told about our gentle father. Now a third person remembered. *And better still:* "You know Jonathan, you look like your father. But you're not like him."

Ernst had a lot to say about hatred. "It poisons everything. When I was working in Hollywood, like all carpenters I had made my own tools. And we branded them with our own marks. The other fellows liked my tools. Sometimes one of them would steal one. I'd go over and say 'That's my tool'. They'd pretend to be surprised and try to give it back. I'd say, 'No keep it'.

"That fellow would use my tool all his life and know it was mine and that he'd stolen it. He'd feel really ashamed. But there was no hatred."

Grannies left out in the cold

A new organisation has been set up to help people cut off from their grandchildren by family squabbles

PAT O'DELL would be many parents' idea of the perfect grandmother. When her daughter Nikki, a single *mother, returned to work after* the birth of her son Timmy, Pat looked after him during the week. Timmy also spent many weekends with Pat and her husband, and their relationship blossomed. "We were really close," she says.

But after two years, relations with her daughter began to sour. Nikki met a man — someone her mother did not approve of — and made other *arrangements for Timmy's* care. Then they moved away and Nikki rang and told Pat she would never see her grandson again.

"The way she said it I believed her," Pat says, "but I hoped that after a couple of years she would come round."

Pat and her husband then *raised more than £4,000 to re-*establish contact with Timmy through the courts.

Eventually, Nikki agreed outside the courtroom to a fortnightly meeting at a family centre but, just before the first visit, changed her mind. Five years later, Pat does not even know where her daughter and *grandson are living.*

She describes her separation from Timmy as a bereavement without end. "When a child dies you move on; that child always has a place in your heart, but you know they have gone. But I know Timmy's out there all the time. Although I haven't seen him since he was two, *every day I* feel his arms around me, see his smile, remember his touch. Some days it's just unbearable."

Her experience prompted Pat to set up the Grandparents Support Organisation (GSO), a Southampton-based charity offering mediation and legal *advice to grandparents who* have lost touch with their grandchildren.

GSO deals with more than 500 cases a year. Many grandparents are denied access by a daughter-in-law following a separation, others are estranged from their own children or lose contact when the children are taken into care.

Of those grandparents who seek access through the courts, about 70 per cent are successful, though some spend as much as £12,000 in the process. Unlike parents, grand*parents must initially seek* leave from the court to make an application, says Hugh Travers, a London barrister. If leave is granted, as it usually is, grandparents can then apply for access. The courts consider the grandparent's relationship with the child, whether there is acrimony between the two parties, and *then decide whether re-estab*lishing contact is in the child's best interests.

Judges are generally sympathetic, Mr Travers says. But gaining a contact order is one thing, and getting parents to co-operate is another.

After the birth of her second grandson, the atmosphere between *Eileen, her only* son Adam and his girlfriend Anna deteriorated. One day when *Eileen went to drop off the* children's Christmas presents, she found they'd moved.

After months with no contact, Eileen became so depressed that her second husband wrote pleading with Anna to get in touch. "She phoned and said we would never see the boys again," *Eileen says.*

Eileen started legal proceedings, and was allowed access to the children for four hours a month, although she could see her new grandson for only half an hour. "I wasn't allowed to give them toys or sweets, or even kiss them. But at least I was seeing them," *she says. But not for long.*

That Christmas, Eileen and her son had an argument; he refused to let her give the children presents, then wrote saying they didn't love her and didn't want to see her again.

EILEEN has not met her grandsons now for nearly two *years. She has never seen her* granddaughter, now one, despite three requests for a photograph. "I can't describe the hurt, the horrible feeling of having all this love and no one to direct it to," she says.

But she refuses to give up. Twice a month she writes with *pocket money*, and regularly *sends birthday presents*, Easter eggs, gifts for the summer holidays. "It's a little bit of contact," she says. "I want them to know that their nanny loves them."

Eileen has gone back to court, but is not hopeful of the outcome. "At the end of the day, the court's priority is the *children's welfare, and appar*ently they're saying they don't want to see me. But I'll always go on hoping and trying, because I love them, and I don't know what I've done to justify such a terrible punishment."

EMMA HAUGHTON

- *Some names have been changed in order not to jeopardise efforts to re-establish contact.*
- *Grandparents Support Organisation, 01703 632387.*

PETER NICHOLLS

Pat O'Dell has not seen her grandson, Timmy, for five years

هكذا من الإصل

'The advancing thud of horse's hoofs woke the slumbering piglet. It was hard to tell who was more frightened'

An old Star still shines brightly

DOWN TO EARTH

PAUL HEINEY

What follows is a tale which, although sad, might give some encouragement to anyone who thinks their working days are done and life will now be no more than a slow decline towards the inevitable scrap heap. While the song says "only the good die young", it seems that when it comes to carthorses the good ones sometimes go on forever.

One of our three Suffolk Punches, Blue, died last week at 12 years old. It was a premature death for a carthorse, but these things are not entirely unexpected. Despite their Herculean appearance, the inner workings of a big horse are a delicate mechanism consisting seemingly of miles of pipework, any length of which is predisposed to tangle. When their guts kink like an uncooperative garden hosepipe, internal functions come to a grinding and painful halt. Once knotted the gut is rarely undone, and the horse inevitably dies. Many good horses are lost this way.

It was shame it had to be Blue that went. He was at the very peak of his working life and schooled to perfection as a working carthorse. There was no job at which he would flinch, be it ploughing, harrowing or dragging logs. He was one of the best: gentle, skilful, obedient and kind. In fact, the only time I remember him ever making a mistake was when dragging a ridging plough between rows of leafy potatoes in order to throw more earth over the growing tubers: this prevents them catching the sun and turning green. Unbeknown to either me or Blue, a two-month-old black piglet had escaped from the neighbouring pig-run by wriggling under the electric fence till it was free. It then headed for the field of potatoes — heaven for a pig. Here, it dug its juvenile snout into the field to unearth the succulent spuds, and gorged itself. Sated, it curled up between the rows and fell fast asleep, snoring.

Meanwhile, Blue and I were approaching. Like all good carthorses he knew that he must plod *between* the ridges, and not *on* them so as not to damage the crop. It was hardly taxing work and took little concentration, and so both he and I ambled across the field, our minds blank, our feet on auto-pilot. It was at this moment that the advancing thud of the horse's feet woke the slumbering pig. Stirred by what must have seemed like an approaching earthquake, the piglet snapped awake and raised its head above the green foliage. It is difficult to know who was the more frightened: the piglet who feared it was about to be trampled, or the poor carthorse who had been wandering along in a daze only to have a little black demon appear in its path. Either way, both fled. It was easier for the piglet, since he could dive back beneath the electric fence and run to mother for comfort. Blue, however, whose equine instincts told him all pigs were enemies, bolted for home, dragging me and the plough behind him.

All calming, soothing and halting words failed to impress him, and it was only when we arrived back at his stable door that he halted, panting and trembling like a child that had seen a ghost. It was fortunate that the field gate was open or I suspect he might have tried to jump it. With the plough behind him. That apart, he never made another mistake.

I always felt that he was owed a peaceful life, having had a turbulent start in the world. Some days before he was due to be born, his mother, very heavy in foal, fell into a deep ditch and could not be extracted until they called the fire brigade. So grateful was the mare's owner that she promised to name the offspring after them. That was how he came to be called Blue — they were the Blue Watch. Now he has been taken from us, suddenly, out of the blue. We miss him.

But life must go on, and a field has to be ploughed. He would not have wanted us to use a tractor. It is a job for two horses and our youngster, Taffy, could not be asked to do it alone. So, who do you think I found peering over the hedge as if to say "can I help?"? No less than dear old Star. Twenty-two years old, stiff and creaky, shoes removed now he no longer works. I wondered if the job might not be too much for him. It seemed like dragging grandad from his bath chair and telling him to dig the garden.

But there was a twinkle in his eye when I brought him off the meadow, which suggested he was ready and willing to take on the task. Once in the stable, he dutifully bent his head to take the collar and made for the field with the sort of spring in his step you might expect from a colt.

Without any prompting he was back in the furrow, treading carefully along it, keeping up a brisk pace which his partner, nearly 20 years younger, was having difficulty matching. And while young Taffy started to raise a sheen of sweat across his chest, old Star remained as cool and collected as if he had been training for this day for months.

Which only goes to show that there is many a good tune played on an old fiddle. A pity that, this week, it had to be such a sad one.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters, of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

Competition is cut-throat among the growers of record-breaking vegetables, says **Anjana Ahuja**

Pump up the pumpkin

Secrecy, subterfuge and sabotage. Little comes close to the shadowy world of growing giant fruit and vegetables. A husband and wife had their outsize onions stolen the night before a big show. An American anthropologist was so fascinated by the passions shown by leek growers that she shadowed them. Dave Smith incurred the wrath of the Gateshead council for building a huge greenhouse in which to grow his exhibits. Neil Armstrong of Northumberland paid a friend £50 to sleep on his allotment to guard his prizewinning leeks — headlines later declared that Mr Armstrong had made "a giant leek for mankind".

Even after the fruit and veg show contests, entries are never left unattended. There is a lot of money to be made from the sale of seeds of giant specimens — there is even an organisation called the Worldwide Giant Seed Club — and as a result there have been several cases of exhibits disappearing.

Growers are often more interested in competing than in a particular vegetable or fruit. According to the *Guinness Book of Records*, Bernard Lavery, a grower from South Wales who has now moved to the United Arab Emirates, holds seven world records — for cabbage, carrot, longest corn cob, courgette, marrow, parsnip and watermelon. And of the 32 listed records, 14 are held by people in Britain.

For this dedicated band, the premier event is the UK Giant Fruit and Vegetable Championships, held every autumn at the Baytree Nursery, Spalding, Lincolnshire, and which attracts 100 competitors.

"The competition is intense," says Dave Brennan, one of the organisers. "A lot of the plants are grown at secret locations to avoid the threat of sabotage."

Do people really go around taking potshots at rivals' marrows? "I don't personally know of a case, but some competitors reckon it's a real concern," Mr Brennan says.

The entrants, he adds, never reveal their gardening secrets, because of the money involved: "Each first-prize vegetable wins £250, with second and third prizes of £75 and £25. Then we have a final round, where the person who has done the best across all categories picks up £1,500. I reckon that this year's winner, Ken Dade, walked off with more than £3,000."

Jimmy Reid, a 75-year-old former demolition contractor, of Gilling West, near Richmond, North Yorkshire, disagrees that money is an incentive. His harvest this year included a 2½lb tomato, a 14½lb cucumber and a 30lb watermelon.

Allan Bagnell, with an outsize prize leek at the Spalding show

He had to remove the doors of his greenhouse to extricate his prize pumpkin, weighing 678lb.

"The prize money's grand, but you're never going to grow fat on it," Mr Reid says. "It costs me at least £50 to hire a van or lorry to get the produce to the shows."

Trying to glean the secrets of the big veg is often fruitless. But good fertiliser and plain water is a favourite, and some gardeners claim that a pint of beer works wonders.

A few even suggest that chatting to the plants promotes growth. Others are more down-to-earth. "You have to do a pH test on your soil and find a fertiliser to match," Mr Reid says. "All that other stuff, like feeding them beer, is a load of rubbish."

In her book, *Pumpkins and Squash*, Caroline Boisset sets out a complex four-point plan for any aspiring pumpkin champion. The first step is to dig an enormous pit and fill it with well-rotted farm manure and soil.

Step two involves planting ahead of the last frost, then "planting out" when two leaves appear.

A baffling array of fertilisers is then employed in a very specific order, to plump up the buds. Generous watering and high-phosphate fertiliser follows, and on cool summer nights, pumpkins should be covered.

Despite her advice, Ms Boisset is not enthusiastic about growing giant vegetables.

"I think they give vegetables a bad name. It puts people off growing pumpkins, because they feel they can't grow the large ones. Even if they do, people don't tend to eat them. Smaller varieties are far superior." But they don't win prizes. Two years ago Mr Reid won a holiday to America at an annual competition in Broughton, near Southampton, but his fear of flying meant the prize was passed to the runner-up.

Neither his prizewinning pumpkins, nor his normal-sized leeks and onions, are destined for the dinner table. "I never eat them, and my wife, Ivy, is sick at the sight of them," Mr Reid says. "I usually give them away or put them on the compost heap — after I've taken the seeds out."

Why, then, does he grow them? "To pass the time," he says. "You can't just sit around the house and vegetate."

● Pumpkins and Squash, *by Caroline Boisett, is published by Mitchell-Beazley, £14.99.*

NORTH NEWS & PICTURES

Jimmy Reid, 75, of Gilling West, Richmond, Yorkshire, had to remove the doors of his greenhouse to extricate his prize 678lb pumpkin

Where size matters

THE BOOKIES' favourite is a farmworker who prefers to remain anonymous and keeps his specimen under sacks, away from prying eyes. But Freddie Parker, aged 12, is rumoured to have the biggest in the village. And this has left Michael Kerslake, a local builder, none too pleased: his is only the size of a football, *Anjana Ahuja writes.*

We are discussing the pumpkin wars. The main topic of conversation in the village of Washfield, Devon, has been the annual competition, to be held tonight, to find the heaviest pumpkin.

It is clear that showing your pumpkin is a solemn business. Not even the competition organisers are above suspicion. "The later the judging, the more likely it is that some pumpkins will have rotted," says Frederick, owner of "The Chosen One", which already weighs about 85lb.

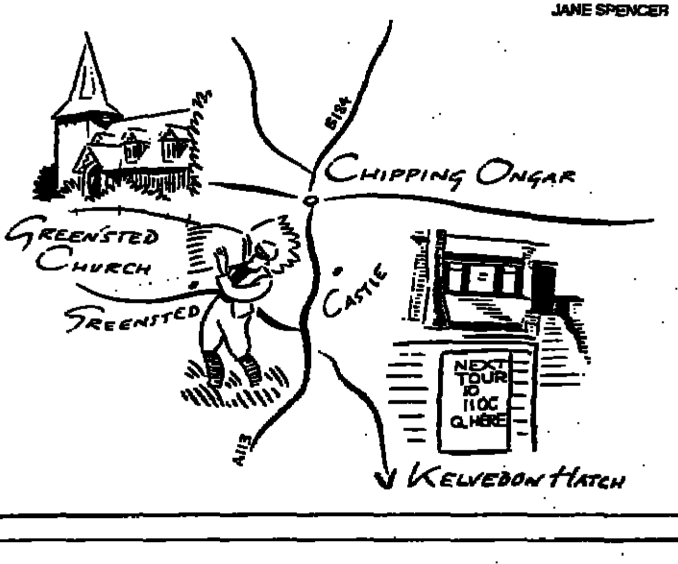
Pete Bennett, holder of the village record (a 128-pounder in 1994) is doubtful about entering this year. A rival has pointed out that he lives outside the village, in Tiverton, whose altitude is 200m lower than Washfield. Pumpkins grown in Tiverton, says the rival, enjoy a warmer climate.

Mr Kerslake insists that, despite the intense rivalry, there is no "skulduggery or jiggery-pokery", although he *has* heard that one local has taken to relieving himself over his neighbour's pride and joy.

All entrants must buy their plants (which come from the same batch) from the village committee during the summer, and 27 people took up the challenge this year. Tonight, the world will know who has the biggest in Washfield.

Freddie Parker, 12, with his 85lb entry, "The Chosen One"

JANE SPENCER



ON THE SPOT: GREENSTED CHURCH

Rural recommendations

The place: the churchyard of Greensted Church, Chipping Ongar, Essex, with its majestic sycamores, spruces and yews.

The view: the ancient wooden church is clearly divided in three: the white tower, timbered Saxon nave and brick chancel.

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Historical interest: people have worshipped here continuously for 1,300 years. There is a grave thought to be that of a 12th-century crusader, and in 1834 the Tolpuddle Martyrs were given temporary shelter nearby.

Time to visit: any bright, autumn day.

How to get there: from the A113 follow signs to Greensted Church. OS ref: 539/030 on sheet 167.

Also nearby: Chipping Ongar and its Motte and Bailey castle built in 1155. The secret nuclear bunker at Kelvedon Hatch is three miles south.

DEBORAH KING

That's no turkey – it's an egret

FEATHER REPORT

BRITAIN has a magnificent new breeding bird. It is the little egret, an elegant white heron with long plumes on its back in the summer — the *aigrettes* that milliners once used to trim hats.

These fine creatures have been visiting us in greater and greater numbers for some years now, probably dispersing from their colonies in Brittany and western France. The first three nests were recorded in summer 1996, one on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, Dorset, the others further west, but these were kept a treasured secret.

This summer, a colony of five pairs bred on Brownsea, and one pair elsewhere — and the news broke this week.

Kevin Cook is the warden on the Brownsea Island nature reserve, which is leased by the Dorset Wildlife Trust from the National Trust. He told me how, in 1996, they heard the egret's strange courting calls, like gobbling turkeys, from a dense area of trees. They guessed a pair might be trying to breed, but it was some weeks before his assistant, Giles Strother, saw one with a stick in its beak, and so became the first person to observe a nesting little egret in this country. Four chicks were eventually hatched in the bulky tree nest, and three of them fledged successfully.

This year, there were not only the five nesting pairs, but others coming to roost in the trees at dusk, with up to 20 birds present on some summer nights. The breeding birds could be seen courting in the treetops, flying round each other, or dancing up and down on the branches with their plumes waving. The Brownsea birds produced 12 young between them. They feed in the brackish waters at the edge of the harbour, and behave quite differently from our grey herons. The latter stand very still, or step cautiously forward, before suddenly plunging their head downwards and spearing an unsuspecting fish. They generally hunt alone.

The egrets more often feed in small teams, and are more energetic. As they step forward they stir up the mud and disturb the shrimps, then chase them through the water, in the style of greenshanks rather than herons.

WITH LUCK, the Brownsea colony will grow next summer, and other colonies could well be founded in other parts of southwest England. Perhaps they will even become common birds in Britain.

In Italy (where many tourists have watched them in the Venice lagoon) there are some colonies with more than 1,000 noisy, squabbling pairs nesting in them. Global warming may be responsible for the spread of this mainly Mediterranean species in northern Europe, and their dramatic arrival here.

There are plenty around at present, mostly in estuaries and other quiet waters in southern England. A good place to see a flock this weekend will be the Exe estuary in Devon. Apart from their gleaming white plumage, they have a sharp black bill, long black legs and (when they lift them out of the water) yellowish feet. They are quite unmistakable, and they are a thrilling sight.

DERWENT MAY

PETER BROWN

Egrets usually feed on the shrimps in brackish waters

● **What's about:** *Birders — watch for bramblings among flocks of finches. Twitchers — Blyth's reed warbler at Flamborough Head, East Yorkshire; pied wheatear also in East Yorkshire; Hume's warbler at Holme, Norfolk. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.*

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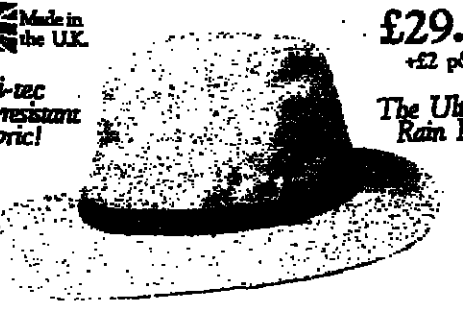

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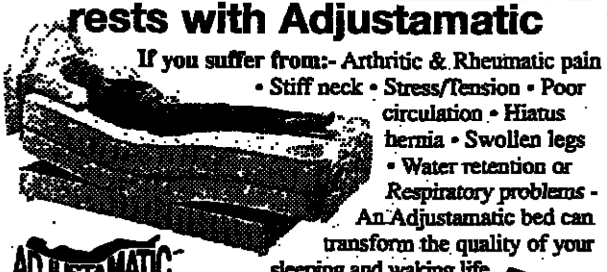

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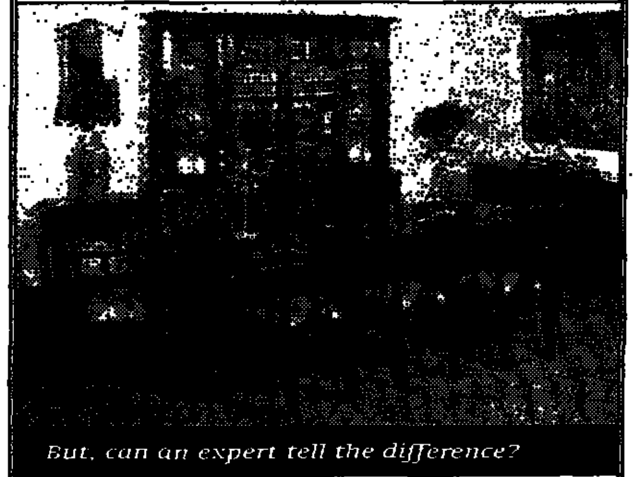

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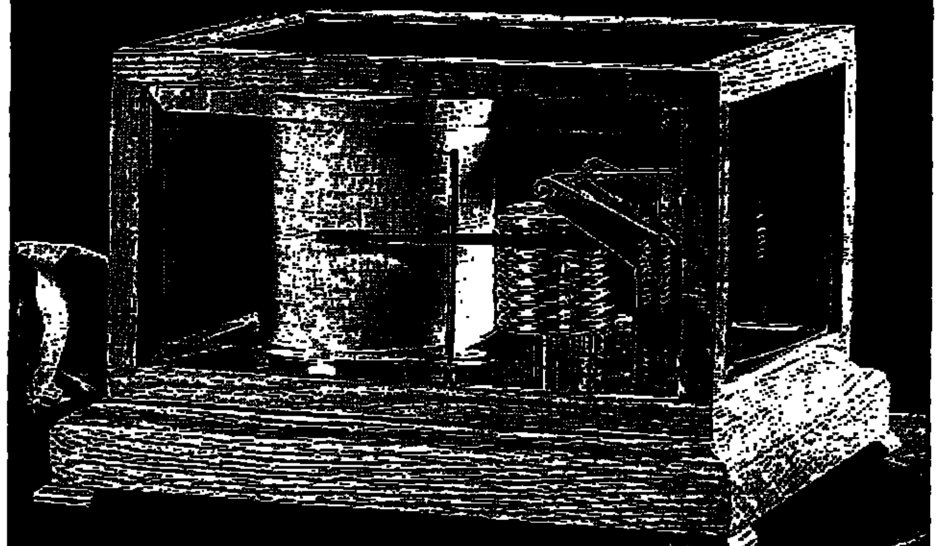

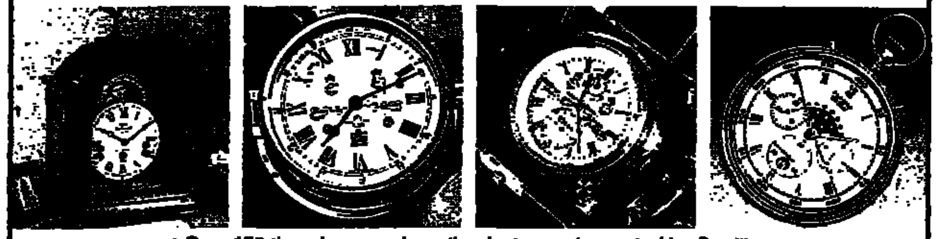

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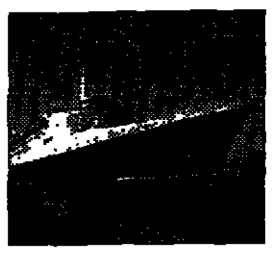

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Journey along 2,700 miles of rail between **Sydney** and **Perth**, from the Pacific to the Indian Oceans. Beginning in **Sydney**, travel *the streets of this amazingly modern city set to* hold the Olympics in the year 2000. In the wide open spaces just a few hours beyond **Sydney**, learn about the aboriginal "Dreamtime" stories that reveal glimpses of *the oldest surviving culture on* Earth. Enjoy the uniquely Australian flora and fauna, and taste exotic bush foods like quandogs and yabbies served *in the elegant dining cars* as they pass through the country where these delicacies grow in the wild.

Volume I	**Sydney to Adelaide**	**£14.95**	**50 mins.**
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Volume I & II		**£24.90**	**Free P&P.**

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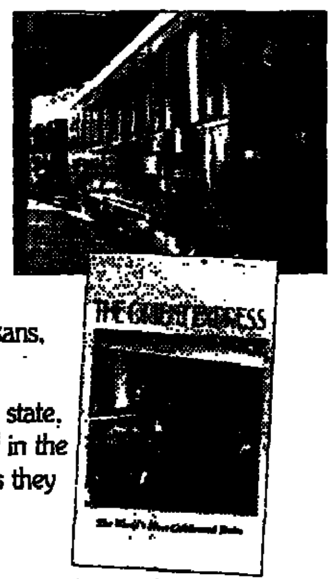
Welsh Railway Spectacular £13.95 60 mins.

The Orient Express



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The Great Alaska Cruise £14.95 80 mins.

The Trans-Siberian Railway

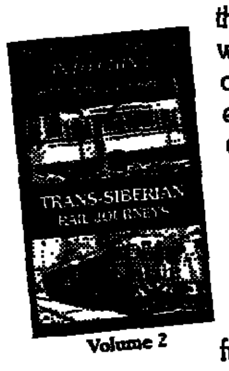
The Longest Train Ride in the World

...is an *astonishing and breathtaking trip from* **Moscow** *to* **Beijing** *- one that* allows travellers, for the first time in recent history, to explore and experience far away regions of **Russia**, **China** and **Mongolia** on their own.

Volume 1

THROUGH RUSSIA

On the first of these fascinating videos, you will experience the spirit of a changing nation. Visit **Irkutsk**, the 'Paris of Siberia.' Explore **Lake Baikal**, *the deepest lake in the world, into* which 336 rivers flow, and only one flows out. Marvel at the vast expanses of this, the largest country in the world.



Volume 2

INTO CHINA

Probe the caves of **Yungang** where 51,000 Buddha *statues are hidden inside the mountain, and explore* the famous tombs of the Ming Dynasty. After crossing the Great Wall of China, celebrate the first full moon after the Chinese New Year!

Volume I	**Through Russia**	**£14.95**	**50 mins.**
Volume II	**Into China**	**£14.95**	**50 mins.**
Volume I & II		**£24.90**	**Free P&P.**

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Luxuriate on a bed of beautiful music *which will carry you along on this exotic* journey...***Blue Hawaii...Aloha Oe... Sweet Leilani... Ebb Tide...Harbour Lights...Moon Of Manakoora....My Isle Of Golden Dreams...*** and more.

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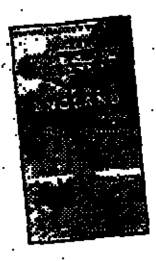
South-West England Rail Adventures



Take your seat for this **South-West England** spectacular. Ride the Main Line through **Cornwall**, starting at Brunel's **Royal Albert Bridge** across the **River Tamar**, *and then take the branch lines to* **Looe** and **St. Ives**. Experience the old steam trains at **Dobwalls** and **Bodmin** and then step on the unique street-running railway at **Weymouth**. All this and more while the beautiful scenery of **Cornwall** and **Dorset** rushes by *the windows*.

South West England Railways £13.95 60 mins.

The Great North American Train Rides

The Great Canadian Train Ride aboard ***The Canadian*** is one of the longest and most luxurious train rides in the world and the pride of the Canadian Pacific rail system. Inaugurated in 1955, The Canadian has been *gloriously* restored and carries you through Canada's most magnificent scenery. Highlights of your trip include visits to **Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff, Vancouver** and **Victoria**.

The Great Trans-American Train Ride puts you aboard the fabled ***Broadway Limited*** from **New York** through **Philadelphia, Pittsburgh**, and points beyond. Then at **Chicago's** Union Station, *you'll transfer to the hi-level* ***California Zephyr*** *for a ride* across vast prairies and into the American West. From **Salt Lake City**, ***The Desert Wind*** takes you through the towering ranges of the **Rocky Mountains** and finally to **Los Angeles**.

Volume I	**The Great Canadian Train Ride**	**£14.95**	**80 mins.**
Volume II	**The Great American Train Ride**	**£14.95**	**90 mins.**
Volume I & II		**£24.90**	**Free P&P.**

Where Jesus Walked

Visit sacred places, then and now

Now, through the magic of video, you can walk in Jesus' footsteps through the Holy Land. Stand on the sites where Christianity was born. Where miracles took place. Where the course of civilization was changed *forever*.

Peer into the well at the site of the wedding at **Cana** where He turned water into wine. Gaze upon the **Church of the Beautitudes**, erected on the mount where Jesus taught.

With ***Where Jesus Walked*** travel to the place where He fed 5,000 followers with 2 small fish and 5 loaves of barley bread. Look into the tomb from which Lazarus was brought back from the dead... Gaze out over **Jerusalem** from the **Mount of Olives**, as Jesus did that Passover season... Feel the shadowy stillness in the cenacle where the Last Supper is believed to have taken place. Retrace His steps on the walk to **Calvary**, and enter the walled garden where the tomb of Jesus stands empty.

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Clanger that could muffle celebrations

A £6 million millennium project to restore church bells in at least 100 communities in Britain could be in jeopardy because of bureaucracy. One of only two surviving foundries in the country, the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, which began casting bells in 1570 and is a survivor of the Fire of London, has cast almost nothing for the "Ringing in of the Millennium" celebrations, because it takes so long for everyone to go through all the hoops required by the Millennium Commission before they can receive funding.

Alan Hughes, the firm's managing director, believes it will be a race against time to have the bells up and ringing for January 1 2000 even when the orders are processed. He is also concerned that the current shortage of work will affect his business.

"Next week seven or eight bells are due to be made," he says, "but the following week the number is down to one or two. We have provisional orders for 40 to 60 bells," he adds, "but we can't do anything until individual projects have been given the go-ahead. If we've still got no confirmations by December, half of my workforce of 28 will be doing nothing. The situation is threatening our very existence."

Bell work cannot be done hastily. Mr Hughes says that an additional bell ordered today would not be in place in the church tower until next Easter, taking into account the designs, planning permission and equipment.

Ross Nimmo, general manager of bell-rope makers John Pritchard Ropes in Loughborough, Leicestershire, says: "The project will be a wonderful boost to the industry and a great way of renewing interest in bell-ringing. So far, though, there have been plenty of faxes and plenty of quotations but not a lot of hard-and-fast orders."

The idea for Ringing in the Millennium originated in Leicestershire, at St Remigius in Long Clawson, near Melton Mowbray. The church wanted two lighter bells to add to its ring of six, but Dr Lin Foxhall Forbes, a bell-ringer at St Remigius, reasoned that the Millennium Commission would be unlikely to fund such a relatively small venture. So the idea of an umbrella project — in which the voluntary Central Council of Church Bell-Ringers would ask for funding for about 100 individual projects — was conceived.

'At noon, thousands of church bells will be ringing throughout the land'

The application was made in December 1995, and seven months later the commission announced that the bid had been successful. The grant was £3 million, with the proviso that a further £3 million come from local fundraising activities and private donations.

By the end of 1996, 500 initial applications for funding had been received. Of these, 150 projects have made progress with arranging co-funding and 48 projects are up and running. The deadline for registered projects is January 31 1998, but no new applications can now be considered. Dr Foxhall Forbes, one of two co-ordinators of the project, says that approval of applications is proceeding apace, and is confident of meeting the target of 100-plus projects. She explained that some of the church tower bells may not have been rung for a long time, while others need restoring. Most of the work will go to eight firms of bell-hangers and the two foundries that do casting and retuning.

Grants range from £2,000 to more than £60,000 for a Somerset church where bell-ringers could be trained. St Remigius has received more than £9,000.

Meanwhile, the recruitment drive to enlist 5,000 new bell-ringers to "Ring in 2000" continues. *The Ringing World*, the weekly journal for church bell-ringers, will publish a monthly list of new recruits with updates on their progress. The first list will be published in *The Ringing World* on Friday.

Editor Tina Stoecklin says: "Hopefully, when noon comes on January 1 2000, thousands of church bells will sound throughout the land, reminding us that the millennium is a lot more than a big party."

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

● *For details on Ringing in the Millennium, contact Dr Lin Foxhall Forbes: 01664 822098. Tina Stoecklin at The Ringing World: 01483 569535. Whitechapel Bell Foundry, 32/34 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1DY. John Pritchard Ropes: 01509 212400.*

CHRIS HARRIS

Alan Hughes of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry is anxiously awaiting orders for new work

Friday prayers

Ruth Gledhill enjoys a lunchtime Mass for City workers

AS WITH many workers I am instantly drawn to any event with the title "Thank God It's Friday". This particular invitation was to a lunchtime event. I was expecting a poppy; instead it turned out to be a traditionalist's dream.

The priest-in-charge, the Ven Gordon Reid, is unpaid in this job, which he does at weekends, lunchbreaks and in between being Vicar-General of the Church of England's Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe. St Michael Cornhill was one of the many City churches threatened with closure in the recent report of the Templeman commission but efforts are now being made to keep it alive. The response to his first TGIF Mass indicated his faith might be justified.

Among the crowd was Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, director of the National Bank of Kuwait and master of the Drapers' Company. The pews were in traditional style, with livery shields on the wooden hinged doors and Sir Michael took up prime position in the Drapers' pew. The service, with the bells, the music, liturgy and the setting itself, would have been good on a Sunday morning in a cathedral. For a City lunchtime church, it was exceptional.

We made our "humble confession" to God upon our knees. We bewailed our sins and wickednesses which we most grievously had committed and the burden of which had become intolerable. We heard the comforting words: "Come unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you."

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A five-star guide* ★

PRIEST: Ven Gordon Reid

SERMON: The importance of rest and recreation. ★★★★

ARCHITECTURE: Wren, Hawksmoor and Scott ★★★★★

MUSIC: Cornhill Choir and organist James Hills. ★★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Free lunch. ★★★★★

The TGIF Mass will be held on the first Friday of every month and a guest speaker — restricted to ten minutes — will be invited to preach. For this first service, Archdeacon Reid took to the pulpit and exempted himself from the ten-minute rule.

The concept of the Mass, he explained, came from his former posting as Anglican chaplain in Stockholm, where the American marines celebrated the end of each week with a thank-God-it's-Friday party.

"It is about looking forward to recreation, thanking God that you have a job, that there is something you can do for your fellow man, to serve your neighbour," he said. It was right that we should stop work at the end of each week, he added. "Even God himself stopped work and had a Sabbath day of rest."

He progressed through the prayer of consecration and communion, finishing just in time to free us for work that afternoon.

● *St Michael Cornhill, London EC3V 9DS (0171-626 8841)*

ROBIN MAYES

Archdeacon Gordon Reid at St Michael's, Cornhill

The Sabbath: our day of freedom and family life

Credo

JONATHAN SACKS

Someone offers you a holiday. It will, he says, be an experience of total relaxation. No work, no phones, no faxes, no cars, no shopping, no television, no radio, just perfect quiet and peace. Best of all, there are no bills. The holiday is free.

There is such a break. It involves a journey, not from one place to another, but from one time zone to another.

It is called the Sabbath — the most original contribution of the Bible to civilisation, and still the most sublime.

Today is Shabbat Bereishith, the "Sabbath of Beginnings". For the past three weeks, Jews throughout the world have been celebrating the great sequence of festivals that mark the beginning of the Jewish year, Rosh Hashanah (New Year), Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) and Sukkot (Tabernacles).

Now, life gets back to normal. And we mark this point in time by going back, in our regular biblical readings in the synagogue, to the beginning of Genesis, with its majestic poem on the origins of the universe and its unexpected climax — "on the seventh day God rested".

It is hard for us today to recapture the revolutionary strangeness of this idea. Every pagan religion had its festivals and holy days. But on none was work prohibited. They celebrated fertility, birth and death, the slow turn of the seasons, the mythic battles of the gods. None, though, celebrated rest.

The ancients believed that we imitate God by exercising power. What was novel about the Sabbath was the idea that we can imitate God by doing nothing, by ceasing, pausing, resting, reflecting and seeing that the world is good. For the Bible, this cannot be the whole truth, but it is part of it, and we live it one day in seven.

The Sabbath played a decisive role in Jewish history. In the book of Deuteronomy, it became a central defence of freedom. The Israelites had been slaves, and the defining feature of slavery is less the physical burden of labour (in a free society there are still workaholics) than the fact that your time is not your own. You are subject to someone else's will.

The Sabbath broke that bondage. For one day in seven, no one could be employed. Everyone was master of his or her time. The Sabbath does not in itself create freedom, but it does generate a powerful appetite for it. No one who has experienced the Sabbath is content to remain a slave.

Today, the battle against slavery has been won in most parts of the world. But liberal democracies have other, subtler pressures of their own. There are times when we work too hard, drive too fast, buy too much, driven by the thousand anxieties of everyday life, some real, others imagined.

For me, the Sabbath remains the still point at the centre of a turning world. It is the time when we come together as a family: eating, talking, singing and catching up with one another's company. We stop rushing to make a living, and instead simply live and celebrate life.

The Sabbath is a world we enter as equal citizens. The hierarchies of work and wealth are suspended. And as the rhythms of the day take over, I find myself once again recalled to the things that matter and that I sometimes forget in the rush of weekday time — love, listening, the company of family and friends, the glory of the created world.

It remains a supreme example of holy time, an oasis of rest in an otherwise restless age.

The writer is Chief Rabbi

Church Services tomorrow

Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity.

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Cymun Bendigaid; 11 Ch M, Te Deum in C (Stanford); 3.15 Ch E; 5 Gosber.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 M; 11 S Euch, Missa S. Joannis de Deo (Haydn); 3.30 RoSPA Service.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch; 4 Ch E.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 M; 10.30 Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd), Canon Galilee; 4 Ch E.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 11 Euch, Canon P A Pearcey; 3.30 E, Noble in B minor.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch; 3.30 Ch E, Sumsion in D.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch; 3.15 E; 6.30 United Nations Service for World Peace.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Sumsion in F; 3 E, Noble in B minor.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Leigh in C, Canon D Knight; 6 One World Week Service, Rev T Williams.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11 S Euch, Chichester Mass (Albright); 3.30 E, Dyson in F.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch, Hear the voice and prayer (Tallis); 3.30 Ch E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 S Euch, Missa in simplicitate (Langlais), Canon Peirce; 6 E.

CORK CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Herford in D; 7 Sung Compline.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Rev J Petty; 5 Ch E.

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch; 6 E, Sumsion in G, Ven I Gatford.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 HC, Little Organ Mass (Haydn), Canon M Perry; 3.30 E, Wood in D.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in F, The Dean; 3.45 E, Collegium Regale (Wood).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Harwood in A flat; 11.15 University Service; 3 E, Noble in B minor; 6.30 ES.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 Euch, Stanford in B flat and F, Canon N Chatfield; 12.15 HC; 3 E.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Sumsion in F; 11.15 M, Jubilate in C (Britten); 6.30 E, Ven R Reiss.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Jackson in G, Canon B Chave; 11.30 M; 2.30 E; 3.30 ES for One World Week.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, The Bishop of Lynn; 4 Ch E, Purcell in G minor.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in F; 3.30 E.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Euch, Canon J Polkinghorne; 3 Ch E, Canon D Hutton; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L; 8, 9 Euch; 11 S Euch; 12.15 Euch; 3.30 Ch E, Wood in F; 6.30 E.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Canon M Fenwick; 6 Ch E, Wood in E.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Responses (Stewart); 6.30 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd).

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch; 3.30 E, Sumsion in G, Canon G Tarris; 6.30 Night Prayer.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Nystedt), The Chancellor; 3.30 E.

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 S Euch, Hail true body (Plainsong); 6.30 E, Harris in D.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8, 9.30 Euch, Sumsion in F, Ven K Good; 11.30 M, Responses (Neary); 12.30 Euch; 5.30 E.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart); 3.15 E.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina); 3 E, Responses (Barnard).

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Missa Orbis factor (Plainsong), The Provost; 3 Ch E, Canon H Cunliffe.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & L; 8 HC; 9.30 C, Canon M R Austin; 11 S Euch; 3.15 E, Walmisley in D minor.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Rev T Russ; 6 E, Gray in F minor.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C; 11 Solemn Euch, Ireland in F, Canon R Capper; 4 E and Harvest Thanksgiving.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Canon D Gray; 11.15 Euch; 3 E, Stanford in C; 5.45 Organ Recital; 6.30 ES.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 10.30, 12 Solemn Mass; 2.45 Organ Recital; 3.30 Solemn V & B, Magnificat octavi toni (Anerio); 5.30, 7 ES.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M; 11.15 S Euch, Darke in F; 3.30 E, Collegium Regale (Howells), Canon C Wright.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch; 11.30 M, Benedicite in G (Jackson); 4 E, Gloucester Service (Howells).

ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11 M, Te Deum (Stanford); 12.15 HC; 6.30 E.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Ch M, Stanford in B flat, Rev C A Mitchell; 3.30 EP.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid; 11.15 Euch; 6 E, The Succentor.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon M Mingins; 10 S Euch; 11.30 Ch C, Darke in F; 3.30 Ch E, Sumsion in A.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC, Missa Brevis (Kyrie); 11.30 Civic Service; 6 St Giles at Six; 8 ES, Rev D K Robertson.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Rev P Bowes; 3.30 Ch E, Noble in B minor.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Glasgow: 8.30 Euch, 10 S Euch; 12 HC; 6.30 Ch E.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 HC, Rev R Frazer; 3 HC; 6 ES.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 M, Stanford in B flat; 3.15 Ch E, Rev R S P Richey.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Chapple); 3.15 E, Carlisle Service (Walsh); 5 Organ Recital.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Missa Brevis (Palestrina); 5.15 LM; 6 E & B, Walmisley in D minor.

ALL SOULS, W1: 8 HC; 9.30, 11.30 MP, Rev J Cook; 6.30 EP, Rev R Bewes.

THE ASSUMPTION, W1: 11 MS, Missa dixit Maria (Hasler).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M, Rev Dr P Elvy; 12.15 HC; 6 E.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11.15 MS, Dr P Green; 6.30 ES, Mr T Fletcher.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30 LM; 11 HM; 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9 HC; 11 MS, Mr J Jennings; 5, 7.30 Informal Service, Rev R Thorpe.

THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.30 Mass; 3.30 V & B, Adoramus te Christe (Aichinger); 4.30, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W8: Feast of the Discovery of The Holy Cross.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 HC, Rev Dr P Graves; 6.30 ES, Rev E Fletcher.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev J Jerumą-Grinsberga; 7 Jazz Vespers.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M, Noble in B minor, The Rector; 6.30 E, Collegium Magdalenae (Leighton), Mr H Potts.

ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 11 Ch M & Euch, Harwood in A flat; 6.30 Ch E, Responses (Ayleward), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 M, Te Deum and Jubilate (Stanford in C), Rev P J Howson; 12.30 HC.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, SW1: 11 HC; 3 HC, Rev J H McIndoe; 6.30 ES.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 S Mass, Messe Solennelle (Gounod).

ST GEORGE'S, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis in F (Haydn), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev S Cathie; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, E15: 11 Family Service, Rev D Richards; 6.30 HC, Rev M Okello.

ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 MP & HC, Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairstow); 6.30 E, Rev J Streeting.

ST MARK'S, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Darke in A minor.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch; 11.30 Visitors to London Service, Rev C Herbert; 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev G Lee; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES.

ST MARY'S, SW1: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM, Fr B Scott; 6 Solemn E & B; 7 LM.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Jubilate Deo (Britten), Mrs R Berke; 6 Living with Faith.

ST MARYLEBONE, W1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Congregation Mass (Robinson).

ST PAUL'S, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Darke in F, Canon D Hutt.

ST PETER'S, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa da Cappella (Monteverdi), Fr W P Keyes.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, SW3: 8 HC; 11 M, Jubilate (Herschel Hill); 6.30 E.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Responses (Leighton).

CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, O how glorious (Harwood).

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Harris in A flat; 3.30 E.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Te Deum (Holst), The Chaplain; 12.30 HC.

QUEEN'S FREE CHAPEL OF ST GEORGE, Windsor Castle: 8.30 HC; 10.45 M; The Dean; 11.45 Euch; 5.15 E.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30, 11.15 HC, Darke in F, The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Ave Regina Caelurum (Carver), Rev T Cole; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, SE10: 11 S Euch, Communion Service in C (Ireland), Rev R Nurton.

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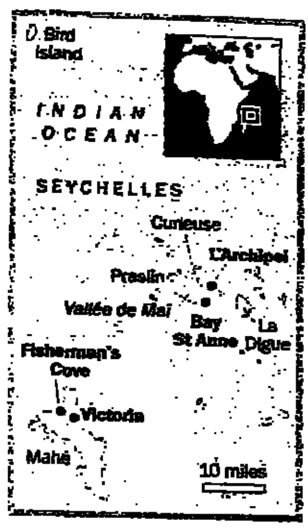
Wedding bells in the Seychelles



Mary Gold tied the knot on an island in paradise

When I told my mother I was getting married, she let out a shriek, invoked the names of several saints and stamped her foot, all at the same time. She pointed out that my intended was divorced and "not even a Catlick" and then knocked her pipe out noisily on the grate before breaking into Irish — always a bad sign. I sipped my sherry and said: "Do I take it you won't be coming?"

We decided to go abroad. When I said I wanted to go somewhere I had never been before, Harry (my intended) said: "How about the kitchen?" I ignored that — and picked the Seychelles.

Couples tie the knot in a foreign country for a variety of reasons — escaping their relatives, the British weather, or people from a previous existence who might turn up and cause a scene. In our case it was all of these. It is also much cheaper to marry abroad. The average cost of a wedding in Britain is £9,534. Our ceremony in the Seychelles cost just a few hundred pounds.

The benefits are obvious. You do not need caterers, bridesmaids or speeches and, on a small island, the groom cannot run away — well, not easily. All you have to do is turn up at the appointed time. When we came back to England we had a church blessing. We invited 100 guests, hired a marquee and it poured with rain the night before. I had three hours' sleep and my stress levels went off the *Richter* scale.

But on Mahé, the principal island of the Seychelles, the sun shone and the only stress came from deciding where to eat lunch. For us, the attraction of these islands was the things that were missing — thumping music, hawkers, neon lights and Mick Jagger singing *I'm a Bleeding Volcano*.

In fact, after a few hours you realise why a group of mercenaries, posing as a touring rugby team, tried to stage a takeover in 1981. When one of them hoisted his holdall at the airport, an AK47 fell out. This gave the Customs men a clue and it was all downhill from there.

Today, there is little crime on the Seychelles, a fact reflected in the headlines of Mahé's newspaper, *Regar* (motto: "Upholding your right to know"). The front page said: "More care for elderly" and "Car park closed for diplomat's funeral". The only real story seemed to be of a New Zealand pirate travelling on a stolen passport, who took someone's yacht and jumped into the sea in Mahé harbour when the game was up.

Pirates are among the privileged few to have visited these 40-odd islands stuck in the middle of the Indian Ocean — they have been inhabited for little more than 200 years — and for most of their brief history they have been unvisited. They are 1,000 miles from the nearest landfall and have only played host to tourists since the 1970s. Even in Port Victoria, the shabby but vibrant capital of Mahé, tourists look out of place, like sepia people who have wandered into a colour photograph.

Fisherman's Cove, where we spent five days before we were married (a legal requirement), was a picture. Little thatched bungalows draped in bougainvillea surrounded the main plantation-style house (also thatched), and the whole caboodle overlooked the Indian Ocean. Since a lovely lady called Janine was handling the cake-music-paperwork shenanigans, there was little for us to do except lurk on the beach. Middle-aged men from the Home Counties with port-mottled faces waded thigh-deep into the warm water and then stood still, sighing deeply, as if to say: "Well, that's enough exercise for this year."

We spent the night before the wedding in the bar, where we met the dashing Norfolk businessman Peter Charlton and his lovely wife, Anne, a Lauren Bacall lookalike, both charming — and both ideal for our last flirting session as single people — at least until Peter confessed his admiration for Margaret Thatcher.

The next day I went into the plantation house, where the ceremony was to take place, to find six people decorating the balcony with a great arbour of flowers. An elderly gardener said: "Madam, you cannot stay here. There is wedding later." So I took myself off for a stiff drink and to wait, fidgeting, for the hairdresser.

I thought I might have half an hour before the 4pm ceremony to unwind, but the hairdresser did not depart until the bitter end, leaving about six minutes for warpaint and getting dressed. Just as I was starting to cry, Janine appeared with a glass of champagne, turned the air conditioning to the "demented woman" setting and found the earring I had dropped on the floor.

Anyone who tells you the dress is not as important abroad is talking rubbish. It is far *more* important. You can look very silly indeed standing on a beach in the Caribbean dressed as Little Bo Peep. The dress must be cool, but not look like a sundress. A company called Ronald Joyce does a good, reasonably priced range especially for hot climates and I managed to stop panicking long enough for Janine to stuff me into one.

Then it was down to the plantation house on the arm of James, the best man borrowed from the hotel, smiling into the video cameras of complete strangers, to where Harry was waiting. The ceremony was informal but dignified, mainly because the island's senior registrar spoke respectfully and slowly, although he need not have announced my age quite so loudly when I have been knocking a couple of years off ever since I was thirty-mumble-mumble.

We cut the cake, opened the champagne and then Peter said: "Is that it? If I'd known it was that simple I'd have fetched that little Danish gel orf the beach." His wife smiled indulgently.

Janine had arranged for us to go out in a boat, so we hitched up my frock and hopped into a speedboat for an hour around the island. The crew of a tall ship moored in the bay sounded their foghorn and threw flowers. It really could not have been nicer.

The next day we took the half-hour flight to Bird Island, where a maximum of 40 guests share a little slice of heaven with three giant tortoises and the one and a half million sooty terns that come to nest here between May and October.

Guy Savy and his wife Marie-France bought Bird Island for £28,000 in 1967, built

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For better or worse: Harry and Mary after their sunshine beach wedding ceremony at Fisherman's Cove on Mahé, in the Seychelles

WORLD PICTURES

Beach at Bird Island: "a little slice of heaven"

SEYCHELLES FACT FILE

- Mary Gold travelled with Elegant Resorts (01244 897888). Her 15-night tailor-made package, including return flights from Gatwick on Air Seychelles, five nights' B&B at Fisherman's Cove, three nights' full board at Bird Island Lodge, seven nights' B&B at L'Archipel, and all transfers, costs from £2,655 per person. Departures year-round.
- The wedding package at Fisherman's Cove, including the services of a registrar, floral arrangements, bottle of champagne, one-tier wedding cake, bouquet, headdress and groom's buttonhole, costs from £395. Allow four working days to organise a wedding in the Seychelles.
- Air Seychelles (01293-596656) has two weekly services from Gatwick from £575-£775 return, depending on season and departure day.
- The Ronald Joyce dress, style no 1160, costs £199. Stockists nationwide on 0171-636 8989. Tiara by Jenny Wicks, 0161-434 6855.
- Wedding arrangements on Mahé were handled by Janine Camille of Travel Services Seychelles on behalf of Elegant Resorts. The TSS number on Mahé is 00 248 322414.
- It is important to plan something special after the ceremony and before dinner, otherwise you will inevitably be propping up the bar in your wedding clothes and looking foolish. A one-hour boat trip costs about £30. It is also worth booking musicians to enliven the proceedings. On Mahé an excellent guitarist costs £65. All can be booked through TSS. Most hotels will provide a room, free of charge, in which the groom can dress.
- The best restaurant for a celebration dinner on Mahé is La Bagatelle in Bel Air (224722). On Praslin we liked the balcony restaurant at L'Archipel (232242).
- Take with you pictures of the bouquet and hairstyle you want — English-speaking florists and hairdressers cannot be guaranteed.
- Be careful when buying the coco de mer nuts — some are carved wooden copies. Look for the Seychelles government stamp and be prepared to pay £120.
- Health tips: inoculations are not necessary but take insect repellent. Sand flies on Praslin are a menace. Take plastic sandals for the beach if you are a crab-ophobe.
- Guidebooks: *Mauritius, Réunion and the Seychelles* (Lonely Planet, £8.95); *Spectrum guide to the Seychelles* (£12.99).
- Seychelles Tourist Office (0171-224 1670).

WORLD PICTURES

Not for Mary's photo album: coco de mer nuts

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CRUISING: AEGEAN SEA

The cruise ship that thinks it's a yacht

After a relaxing Aegean voyage, **Michael Freedland** puts a scoot on

Her small size means the *Sea Goddess* can get close enough to shore for guests to go water-skiing and ride wet bikes, and she can dock in the centre of a city

It was the evening Jimmy Lochhead, the *maitre d'*, bumped into us on the staircase that I realised the *Sea Goddess* was no ordinary ship and this was no ordinary trip. "Are you all right?" he asked. "I was getting worried about you." They served dinner until 10 o'clock. It was 9.15pm and we hadn't shown up at our usual table, so Jimmy was about to knock on our cabin door to make sure all was well. It was one to add to my memoirs, or to the work-in-progress *Head Waiters I Have Known*.

The *Sea Goddess I* is a small ship that calls itself a yacht. I'd call it magic. Since the Government is a bit worried about replacing *Britannia* it might think of leasing the *Sea Goddess*. I can't imagine Her Majesty would object — although it might well make her cross when she looks around and thinks about what she's missed over the years.

For us, it was as though some wealthy potentate had invited us aboard his private craft, a kind of house party at sea.

Before we travelled, Cunard sent us a questionnaire. Among the questions was, "Would you like to let us have your favourite recipe?" We didn't, and I'm glad. The food on board was as tempting as the service, the ambience excellent. Unlike the bigger ships, the *Sea Goddess* has no theatre or cinema, so you are expected to linger long and comfortably over meals. Dinner is a two or three-hour candlelit experience in a good French restaurant. The *maitre d'* always seems to be there to see that everybody is happy — when he is not running up and down the stairs looking for his customers. The wine flowed as fast as the waiters and neither was subject to extra charge (tips are included).

Because the ship is small compared with many cruise liners — there were 60 passengers on our trip, and the maximum capacity is 116 — she can anchor at the coves and on the shores of islands which other ships can't reach.

The *Sea Goddess* began its slow voyage from Istanbul to the Greek Islands via the Dardanelles. The May weather, which had begun with rain, was glorious as we sailed past Gallipoli. If Churchill had taken a trip like this before engulfing the Australians and New Zealanders in one of the worst disasters of the First World War, he would have seen it was a hopeless operation. The beaches were totally exposed — and looked beautiful from the deck of the ship.

The first excursion came the next day. It was to the Greek island of Skyros, a little place where the people think they ought to throw a party whenever they see a motor car — the coach taking us around the island had to be brought in specially for us from Athens. We found the old town, a few shops selling sunhats and sandals and roads paved with stones more than 1,000 years old. We climbed to the top of a mountain and saw a very old monastery, a testament to both the faith of the monks and their good taste in choosing a spot that surveyed such spectacular views of both countryside and sea.

Skiathos, the following day, was very different. It rained, and this was much more your idea of an upmarket resort town, upmarket shops and upmarket open-air restaurants that even offer upmarket cushions on their wickerwork chairs. The interesting part of Skiathos comes, as in most resort towns, behind the main street — quaint little roads with old buildings draped in vivid red flowers.

It was at Volos on the fifth day that the relationship between Greece and its Orthodox Church became most apparent. The Meteora monasteries, near where Julius Caesar defeated Pompey, have an air of obvious sanctity about them and are, plainly, also a boon to the tourist industry. The guides will tell you again and again that they have the finest painting anywhere of the Last Supper and offer a chance to look at the skull of St Nicholas for good measure.

Thessaloniki (Salonica), home of one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of all time, is a city I had always wanted to see. In the city's museum are the treasures of King Philip II of Macedonia, father of Alexander the Great. Gold urns, gold jewellery of a kind to make the gentlemen at Garrards salivate — including a couple of laurel wreaths — and precious stones.

All these treasures could have been newly made, or at least be part of someone's family heirloom collection. Alas not mine. There were also magnificent ivory shields, gold-inlaid swords, helmets and other armour, all of it taken from the king's tomb in one of the most outstanding finds of the century — a kind of Greek Tutankhamun.

The church of St Demetrius — he of the battle with the Gladiators — contains relics of the man who is patron saint of the city. It is built on the site of the Roman baths, where he was imprisoned and then slain.

Modern Thessaloniki is a charming city, a pleasant sea shore, an avenue of shops, and a bustling market that appears to extend all over the city's back streets. But above all, it was here that the fascination of arriving by ship comes into its own. Step down the gangplank — you are required to register on a pegboard as you go ashore and move the pegs when you return — and you are already in the centre of the city, just as though you had arrived in Oxford Street by Tube. A weird sensation.

In a way, though, no more weird than my temptation to indulge in water-sports. Those who know me will agree that that is not my usual bent. But the day after Thessaloniki, the ship sailed along the Halkidiki peninsula. The rocks and islands were as idyllic as any I know, and when the ship docked only a matter of yards from one of them, it was as though we were taking part in a movie travelogue.

The ship's captain, David Warren Owen, decided it was an occasion for a sailor's holiday. He whizzed around the ship in a dinghy and invited his passengers to go water-skiing. That was distinctly not my cup of tea, but in a blue sea that was like a polished mirror, the water scooters were something else.

You are strapped on to these with life jackets and crew members are on hand to effect any necessary rescues. They were not called upon.

That was something you couldn't do on bigger ship. It would never get that close to shore. Neither would the stewards wade in and out of the sea to serve drinks, as happens on some *Sea Goddess* cruises. This time, they contented themselves with climbing fully clothed into the swimming pool and offering barbecue snacks and delicacies from there. Why, I never really worked out.

FACT FILE

- **Michael Freedland travelled with Cunard (general inquiries 01703 634166, or call 0800 000500 quoting Ref SG81 for a brochure).**
- **From May to September next year, Cunard offers seven-night cruises on the *Sea Goddess II* (which is identical to *Sea Goddess I*) on routes from Athens to Istanbul, and from Istanbul to Venice, from £4,170 per person in a twin room and from £6,260 in a suite. The price includes all food, drink and tips, but excludes flights — which Cunard can arrange — and port and handling charges of £130 per person. Prices based on two sharing a cabin.**
- ***Most excursions are also* included in the cost. However, there are additional tours to certain difficult-to-reach spots, which are always run simultaneously with other free trips. (On *Skiathos, for instance*, you could pay £85 to hire a jeep.)**
- **Dress is formal on two evenings and informal (jacket and tie) on three. On the other two evenings, the requirement is "elegant casual" — in practice, men do not come down for dinner without a jacket and tie.**

'The crabs wore 'we were here first' expressions'

Continued from page 21

simple wooden lodges for their guests and planted fruit and vegetables to feed them. Today, the lodges have solar heating and four-poster beds and the restaurant is first-class.

On Bird Island, everyone behaves a bit like Catholics in Heaven — they pretend they are the only people there. Wander through the dense mangrove and you may see other people, but they scuttle off into the undergrowth like perverts in the park.

So we snorkelled and snored for three days and were rather depressed when the time came to leave. I shall probably go back there to die.

Then it was off to Praslin (pronounced Prarlan), the second biggest of the Seychelles at seven miles long and two miles wide. If Mahé was quiet, Praslin was positively comatose. There was a disco but it was padlocked, and there was a casino but no one ever seemed to use it.

We stayed at L'Archipel, a cluster of beach houses among palm trees with views to the island of Curieuse. Our veranda was 30ft long and the room was spectacular — a muslin-draped bed on a platform with a fan spinning overhead. It was straight out of *World of Interiors*.

When we started to feel guilty about lolling about, we walked into Bay St Anne up the road, a shabby little place with the air of an abandoned film set. The shops advertised an unpredictable assortment of oddities: "Mr Esperance, purveyor of goods, liquor and chicken parts". Another shop sold pictures of Christ with Creole features, dresses so outdated they would soon be back in fashion and the sort of ladies' underwear that advertises itself through your clothes. Beautifully dressed children sat on their garden walls watching the world wag past and without exception, everyone we passed said "Bonzour".

In Bay St Anne we caught a bus to the Vallée de Mai, the 45-acre national park which is home to an outsized collection of botanical astonishments, including the bizarre coco de mer plant. This huge and heavy double nut is described coyly in the guidebook as "shaped like a woman's pelvis" and while extraordinary, it is not the kind of thing you really want to be seen holding in a photograph — and certainly not displayed in your wedding photo album.

Then it was back to the beach restaurant at L'Archipel for lunch.

The beaches in the Seychelles are about the best I have seen, but the little private one at L'Archipel was my favourite. Although small, it is only a few steps from your bungalow and strangely quiet, the guests even whispering to each other under the palm trees.

If the Seychelles sound too idyllic, I do have one complaint. On Bird Island, the path between our lodge and the restaurant was littered with large crabs after dark. A French lady two doors up had to be taken to dinner in a wheelbarrow.

The crabs wore "we were here first" expressions and made no move to scuttle away. I screamed and hopped so much that Harry had to give me a piggyback. Unfortunately, I had fibbed about my weight as well as my age, and just as we were in among the enemy, Harry's knees buckled, he fell to the ground and I was catapulted over his head in among a thousand claws. I think it is grounds for divorce.

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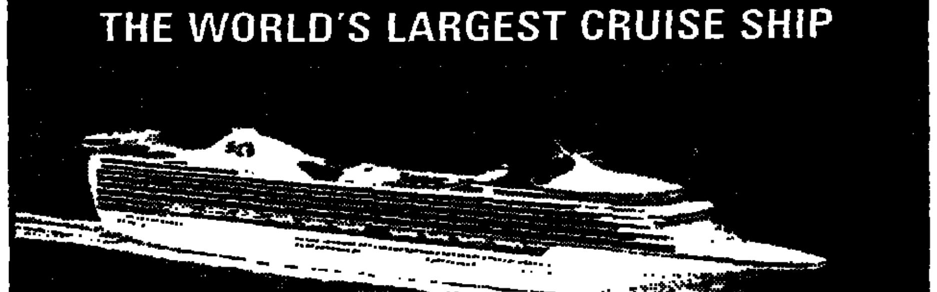

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Taking the plunge: this couple married under water — the bride in white with a garter, the groom with a top hat

EXOTIC WEDDING BELLS

A WEDDING in a wadi is the latest variation available to a couple deciding to marry abroad, *writes Steve Keenan*. The travel company Weddings Abroad is to feature Dubai after requests from couples dreaming of an *English Patient*-style ceremony against a background of rippled dunes and the strains of *Midnight at the Oasis*.

The more exotic the location, the better, but the broadening range of destinations may also reflect a move away from mainstream wedding spots. Barbados, Kenya, Antigua and the Seychelles have all dropped in the list of Kuoni's Top 10 wedding destinations, while Sri Lanka, Thailand and Australia are on the up (see below).

Nick Cropper, director of Weddings Abroad, said: "I am unhappy with the Caribbean in general, particularly the Dominican Republic. Problems happen when complacency sets in. Things get overlooked at hotels doing four or five weddings a day and, when one problem occurs, it festers. Things that could have been nipped in the bud become a big dilemma."

RECENT complaints include those from a Manchester couple who are suing travel company Unijet over blurred wedding pictures in Antigua. And Thomson, last month, had to move wedding clients to different hotels in the Dominican Republic because a planned hotel refurbishment had been delayed.

The potential for disaster is vast — and free T-shirts, breakfast in bed or sparkling wine will not appease couples when the photographer or hairdresser do not turn up.

However, the appeal of marrying on a palm-fringed beach has not abated, with estimates of up to 40,000 couples marrying abroad.

People are also spending more, with the average outlay in the past two years having increased by 50 per cent to £1,500 per person, says Mr Cropper. He cites one couple lashing out £500,000 to take a wedding party of 100 abroad.

Several tour operators now have separate wedding brochures, including Thomson, Airtours, Cosmos and Kuoni.

According to Colleen O'Brien, the wedding co-ordinator for Kuoni, about half its clients are second-timers at the altar. "They prefer a beach to a register office on a cold winter morning," she said.

More destinations are becoming available, such as Bali, which has now cut residency rules to 14 days instead of 28. The average residency requirement at most destinations is five days.

But certain countries have wedding restrictions. Canada and Switzerland are still hidebound by bureaucracy, and most Muslim countries are off-limits.

Local rules apply wherever you are. Bali may have cut its residency rule, but refuses to cater for divorced Catholics.

● *Weddings Abroad, 0161-969 1122. Kuoni, 01306 747007.*

THE TOP 10 WEDDING DESTINATIONS

(1996 position in brackets)

1 (1)	St Lucia
2 (5)	Sri Lanka
3 (2)	Barbados
4 (8)	USA
5 (4)	Kenya
6 (3)	Antigua
7 (7)	Mauritius
8 (6)	Seychelles
9 (-)	Thailand
10 (-)	Australia

Source: Kuoni

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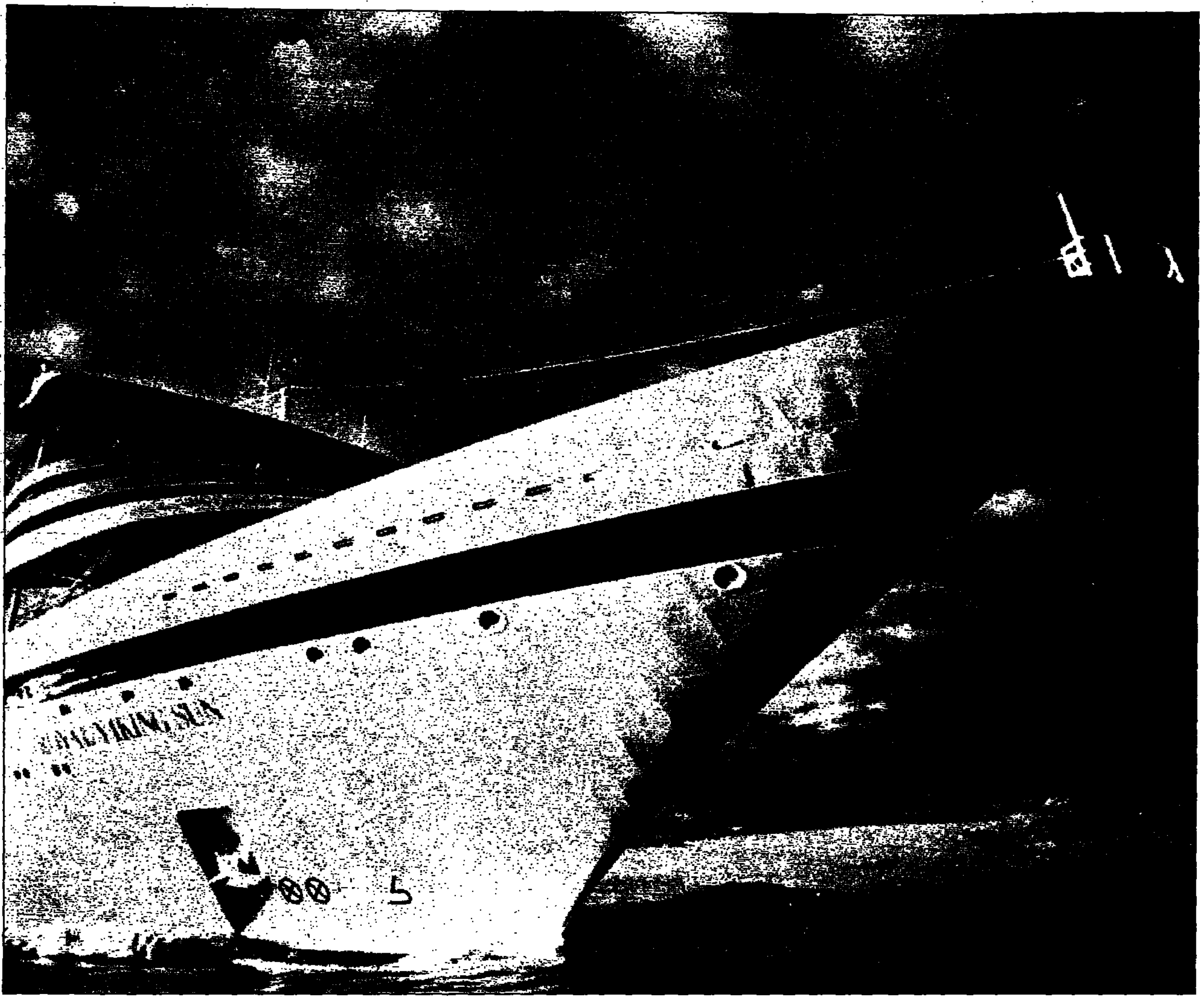
CRUISING: BLACK SEA

Casting a shadow on the Viking Sun

Maria Harding asks whether Cunard's finest ship is all it's cracked up to be



Cunard proudly refers to its *Royal Viking Sun* as "the world's highest-rated cruise ship" — but some passengers claim that standards have gone downhill

The American woman accosted me as I was about to board the coach for a visit to the ballet, her lips set thin with disapproval.

"Excuse me, but I couldn't help overhearing you say at lunch you thought Odessa was a lovely city. I just can't belieeeeve you mean that. It's so bleak, so run down. They've spent nothing on doing it up . . ."

I pointed out that cash was not exactly thick on the ground in Ukraine in the wake of deunification, and defended Odessa as best I could on a few hours' acquaintance.

Surely the city's pastel-tinted 19th-century houses, the lovely tree-lined Pimorsky Boulevard overlooking its Potemkin Steps, and its Classical-style circular opera house had a certain grandeur, albeit faded?

She remained resolutely unimpressed as we headed for that same opera house to watch the Odessa State Academical Opera and Ballet Theatre give a heart-rending performance of *Giselle*.

Sitting stolidly in the box next to mine, she made no attempt to applaud the virtuosity of the dancers and did not even wait for the first curtain call before hightailing it back to the coach.

Ah well, I thought, when you are travelling on a ship vaunted by its owners as the world's finest, perhaps life on board seems preferable to anything you are likely to encounter ashore.

And indeed. Cunard Line's *Royal Viking Sun*, on which we took our Black Sea cruise, is a ship with a noble lineage. Built in 1988 for Royal Viking Line, a Norwegian company famed for the quality of its service, the 37,845-ton vessel was designed to be the most luxurious medium-sized cruise ship in the world, providing the ultimate in comfort, service and sheer class to her 814 pampered passengers.

The *Royal Viking Sun* fell into Cunard's hands in 1994 and subsequently spearheaded the line's drive to establish itself as a luxury-cruise operator. Since then, Cunard has been singing her praises long and loud, referring to her as "the world's highest rated cruise ship".

The line bases such assertions on the 1997 edition of the *Berlitz Guide to Cruising and Cruise Ships*, which gives *Royal Viking Sun* — along with four other ships — a top rating of 136.5.

Judging by appearances — the elegance of *Royal Viking Sun*'s public rooms and her capacious outside decks — I could see why the Berlitz researchers had been impressed. But having sampled the standards of service on board, I could not help feeling that under her new management, *Royal Viking Sun* — rather like Odessa — is trading on past glories.

And I was not alone. A New York couple who had cruised on the ship in her heyday were vociferous in their disapproval. "*Royal Viking Sun* has definitely gone down, both in service and cleanliness," the wife said. "The sheets used to be changed every day. Now my cabin maid tells me it's every three days. It's just not good enough!"

An American lady of Scottish descent — drawn to our group by a kilt-wearing compatriot — was equally disappointed. "The ship has definitely changed — and not for the better. The service is nothing like as good as it used to be," she complained.

Don't get me wrong: *Royal Viking Sun* is a world away from what the tabloids might call "a floating Lubianka"; judged simply as a five-star cruise ship, she certainly passes muster.

Her outdoor decks are broad, and well maintained, with a few nice touches like a croquet lawn (the only one afloat) and a small putting green. She also caters for workaholics with a business centre; for health fiends with a roomy gym and spa, and for golfers with a simulator which lets would-be Tiger Woodses "play" some of the world's great courses by computer.

Her main dining room, resplendent in pale grey and mauve with huge windows, brass trimmings, snowy linen, fine china and crystal, is one of the prettiest I have seen. The food is good, too.

True, a couple of steaks were overcooked and the salads unimaginative, but, apart from the odd aberration, standards were high, the bread oven-fresh, the soups absolutely delicious and the puddings to kill for.

The ship's alternative dining room, the Veneziana Restaurant, at which passengers may eat only once a week, was even better: classic Italian food was served with panache in a chic setting — a real treat.

Another pocket of excellence was the Stella Polaris Lounge, a lovely semi-circular bar with dramatic ocean views, a ship's wheel (popular for passenger snapshots), a harpist and the ship's best barman, a cheerful Frenchman.

And Tore Lura, the captain of the *Royal Viking Sun*, was a real charmer, who took time out on disembarkation day to bid each passenger farewell as they left the ship.

But some aspects of the ship bore comparison with other top-range vessels less sturdily. Cabins ranged from rather poky insides to 21 enormous, 606 sq ft penthouses and one, even bigger, Owner's Suite.

I stayed in a B-grade cabin with a broad balcony, television and video, a comfortable double bed, mini-bar (empty), a two-seater sofa and a walk-in closet.

The bathroom was quite small, with only a shower unit (some have baths, so check when booking) and, surprisingly, no hairdryer. Cosy towelling robes and slippers are provided in all cabins, but only penthouse and Owner's Suite occupants qualify for free drinks.

Lesser mortals may order stocks for their mini-bars but only once they are aboard — a bore if, like me, you arrive hot and sticky after a delayed flight to find there is not even a bottle of mineral water to hand.

Room service was available around the clock, but was run on a rather strange system whereby you dial a number, hang up and wait for your stewardess to call back. This is fine if you only want a sandwich, but a hassle if you want to order from the restaurant menu, available during dining hours — as you then have to call for a menu, wait for the stewardess to deliver it, and call back (hang up, wait, etc) to place your order.

If you want wine with your lunch or dinner, there is more delay, as you have to sign a requisition form before they will deliver it.

Compare this with luxury-cruise operators Seabourn Cruises and Silversea Cruises — where passengers are greeted with a complimentary bottle of chilled champagne, room service is a simple phone call away, and staff give the impression that nothing is too much trouble — and you'll see why I am not overly impressed with the *RV Sun*'s claim to be "the finest afloat".

The problem seems to be that there are too many rules and regulations; you get the impression that the ship is being run more for the benefit of the crew than of the passengers.

For example, bars closed at bizarre and inconvenient times. On the night we boarded, we met in the Midnight Sun Lounge for drinks at 7.30pm to be told the bar would close for cleaning at 8pm. As the witching hour arrived, we had staff vacuuming around our feet until we took the hint, gulped our drinks and left.

The Dining Experience, as they call it in the brochures, was also less relaxed than might be expected on this class of ship. In theory, you could go to dinner any time between 7.30 and 9pm, but we got a distinctly sulky reception when we pitched up one night at 8.30.

And at breakfast on our last morning, when several waiters were standing about empty-handed, I was told in the sternest tones by one that he was too busy to answer a simple question, and informed me curtly that I'd have to wait.

Relatively minor niggles, I know. But the problem with claiming to be the world's best — and setting fares to match those claims — is that people expect you to come up with the goods.

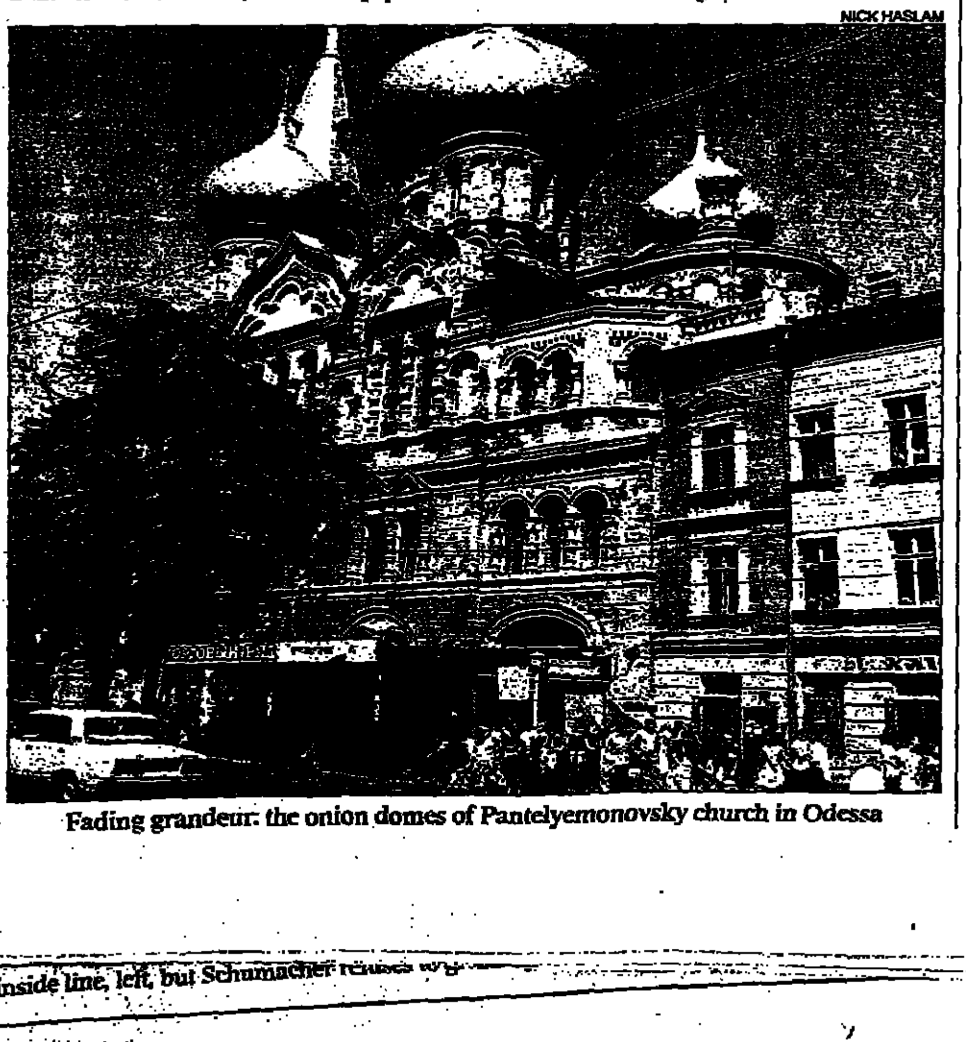
My verdict? If you take it as one of the 20 ships given five-star or five-star-plus status in this year's *Berlitz Guide*, *Royal Viking Sun* has a fair amount to recommend it.

But the finest ship afloat? As my American friend might say, get real.

FACT FILE

- Maria Harding travelled with Cunard (general inquiries 01703 634166, or call 0800 000500 quoting Ref RVSI for a free brochure). She joined the *Royal Viking Sun* for part of a 14-night cruise from Venice to Piraeus, calling at Yalta and Odessa in Ukraine and Çanakkale in Turkey.
- In August 1998, a 14-night Black Sea Odyssey cruise will cost from £3,930 for an inside cabin, £6,640 for a Category B1 cabin, and £10,280 for a penthouse.
  The price includes economy scheduled flights to Venice and back from Athens, all food, on-board entertainment and tips, but excludes drinks, shore excursions and port and handling charges of £135 per person.
- The ships which share *Royal Viking Sun*'s top rating in this year's *Berlitz Guide to Cruising and Cruise Ships* are Hapag-Lloyd's 37,012-ton, 600-passenger *Europa*, the Cunard-owned 4,260-ton, 116-passenger sisterships *Sea Goddess I* and *Sea Goddess II*, and Seabourn Cruises' 9,975-ton, 212-passenger *Seabourn Legend*.

NICK HASLAM



Fading grandeur: the onion domes of Pantelyemonovsky church in Odessa

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SKI WEEKEND: CANADA

Northern resorts are poles apart

I HAVE seen the future of skiing, and it is in Canada. Largely, it is the vision of the man leading me up the snow steps of Spanky's Ladder on Blackcomb Mountain at Whistler.

Hugh Smythe started as a lowly labourer on Whistler Mountain when what is now the No 1 resort in North America was little more than a few lifts running up from the town rubbish dump. He worked his way up through the ranks on Whistler Mountain, was the founding father of Blackcomb, and now oversees *them both, as well as an empire of nine* other resorts.

For the first time, Whistler and Blackcomb — previously separately owned and uneasily co-existing within Whistler Resort — will open under co-or*dinated management, joined with Mont* Tremblant, Panorama and Mont Ste Marie in Canada as well as with Copper Mountain and Mammoth in America, under the Intrawest label.

What does this mean for the holiday skier? I have to stop to take a breath.

The heavy Whistler powder on Spanky's steep off-piste slopes is beating me to a pulp. Smythe pulls up 50m down the double-diamond, expert-rated Ruby Bowl to wait for me. He is a skier.

And that is something unique about Canada. Unlike in America or the Alps, all of its major resorts are owned or operated by hard-core skiers such as Charlie Locke (owner of five Alberta areas including Canada's largest, Lake Louise), Ralph Scurfield (energetic owner *of Sunshine in Alberta),* Skat Petersen (charismatic proprietor of Red Mountain in British Columbia), and Canada's most famous skiing family, the Olympic champion Nancy Greene and her husband Al Raine, the genius responsible for Whistler Village. They've left Whistler behind and now supervise Canada's fastest-developing small resort, Sun Peaks in British Columbia.

DOUG SAGER

I have skied with them all. And were I to hazard a comment on who is the best, there would be blood on the slopes. That's how seriously Canadians take their skiing, and their resorts.

But Smythe wins hands down in terms of who has the most resorts to play with. As president of Intrawest's resort operations, he supervises not only the nine North American resorts Intrawest owns but also property developments worth hundreds of millions of dollars in both Squaw Valley in California and Keystone in Colorado.

In Canada, more money is being poured into skiing than anywhere else in the world. Intrawest, a Canadian-owned company, has just announced a plan for 2002 for its eastern flagship, Mont Tremblant, which will push spending there up to almost C$1 billion. Government co-operation with skiing development is better in Canada than anywhere else. It is the only nation where entire ski areas as well as resort towns — such as Banff — *are permitted to expand* within the boundaries of national parks.

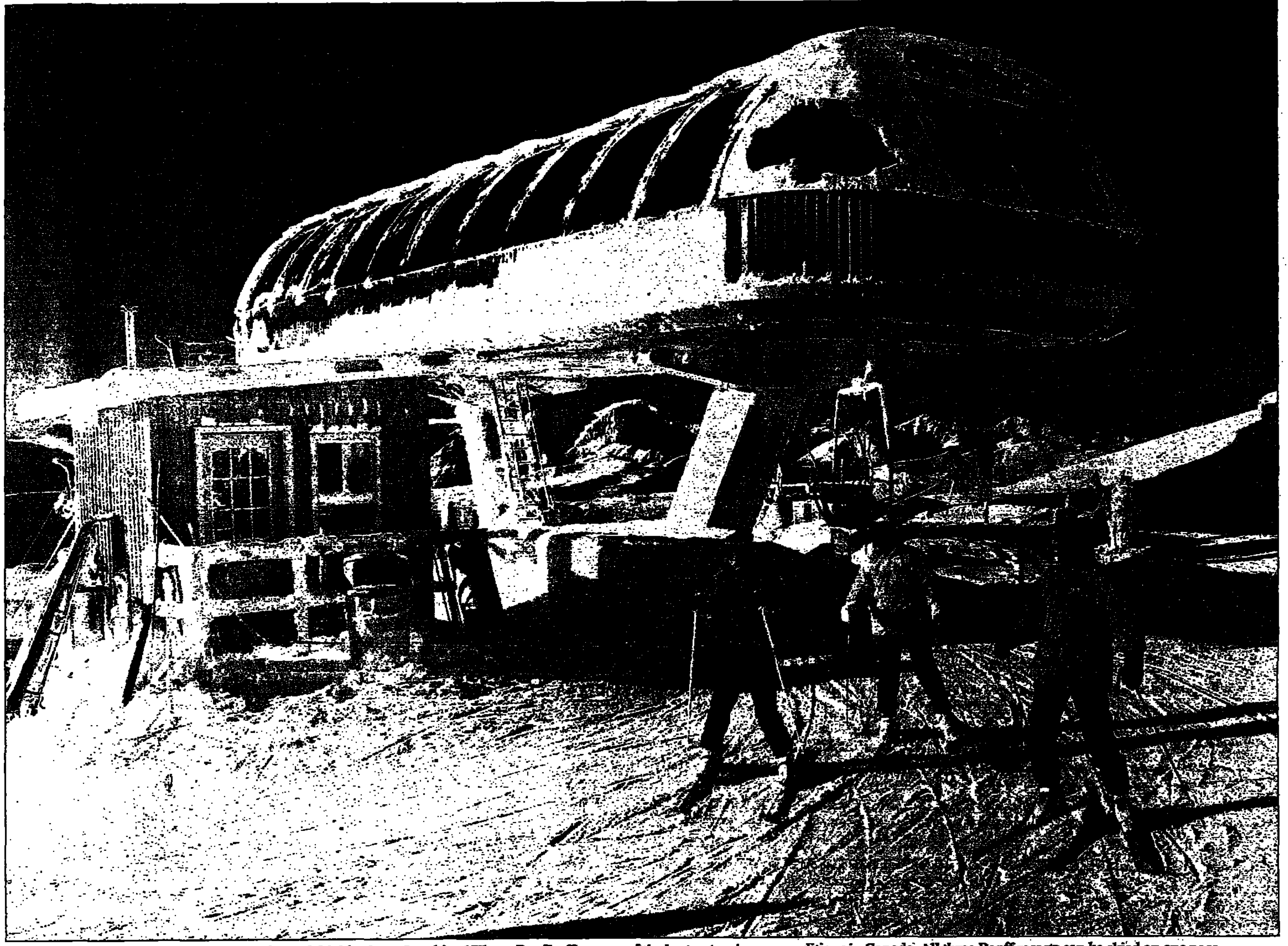
NOWHERE ELSE is new skiing terrain being carved out so expansively. There is scarcely a Canadian resort without new lifts or new terrain announced each year.

Sunshine's Goat's Eye nearly doubled that resort's skiing area. Fernie has announced plans to expand twofold. Having opened one entire new mountain a few years ago, Silver Star is now blazing new trails into the Valhalla Adventure Area. *This season Norquay* opens a new sector, the American Basin. Whistler, Big White, Red Mountain, Tremblant, Lake Louise... all have new lifts, ski runs or lodges for this winter.

This is not to say that Canada is yet perfect. It is too cold for comfort, until March, for most holiday skiers used to the Alps.

Whistler is the only Canadian resort to come close to the range and scope of skiing in European destinations such as Val d'Isère or Verbier. Indeed, it would be wrong *to say that* Canada has anywhere near the best skiing in the world, but it is probably right to say that it is the only place where skiing is going to get radically better in the future.

SKISHOOT-OFFSHOOT



The slopes that straddle the Continental Divide above Sunshine Village, Banff, offer some of the best natural snow conditions in Canada. All three Banff resorts can be skied on one pass

WORLD PICTURES

BRITISH COLUMBIA

■ A dual mountain ski-pass gives skiers the run of both Blackcomb and Whistler *mountains* but the only crossover is at the bottom of Whistler Village. Respectively, these mountains are number one and number two in terms of vertical drop in North America, with Blackcomb's skiing falling one vertical mile down challenging couloirs, open bowls and twisting gullies.

Whistler's snow is deep, its grooming impeccable and its pistes adored by intermediates. But it rains in the village and the snow is often heavy and sticky.

There are several excellent restaurants, better ski shops than in the Alps, and a good range of chalets and ski-to-the door hotels, the most impressive of which is the Chateau Whistler, opening this season after a £20-million expansion project.

Sun Peaks is western Canada's most impressive work in *progress. An entire new* village has been constructed, three major hotels this summer. Almost an hour from nowhere — Kamloops, BC — Sun Peaks is a paradise for skiers who can't stand queues *and who don't much* like seeing any other tracks but their own in the powder.

In the Okanagan Valley, the family resorts of Silver Star, Big White and Apex guarantee uncrowded slopes, high snow *levels and low prices. Silver* Star has a superb ski school and a tiny village that looks just like the set from a John Ford western. Big White is even smaller, but with deep powder. Apex has outstanding skiing at modest prices.

Family orientated Panorama has the third-highest vertical drop in North America and is the base for RK Helicopter Skiing. Now getting more attention in Britain, Fernie is renowned for its friendly folk and cheap accommodation in what used to be a mining town. Being close to the Continental Divide, it has some of the best powder snow in Canada.

A legend among skiers who fly in from all over North America for its unreconstructed ambience and rough terrain, Red Mountain is a time warp of stripped-down skiing: snow, snow and more snow.

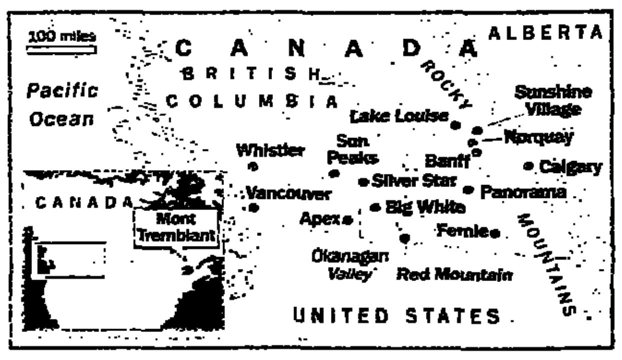
Condos may be under construction in the potholed parking lot, but the lifts are still slow and second-hand. And at the Red Shutter Inn, at the bottom of the slopes, the wine is not only bottled but kitmade, "*en maison*".

ALBERTA

■ Banff is far and away the most popular Canadian destination. Breathtakingly beautiful, the town nestles in national parkland where elk really do roam the streets. Hotels are a dream, especially the 850-room Banff Springs and the Chateau Lake Louise, set off with a hanging glacier. Primarily a summer resort, Banff is surprisingly cheap in winter.

It is possible to ski all three Banff resorts — Norquay, Sunshine and Lake Louise — on one ski pass. Norquay is just on the outskirts of Banff and popular for families and night skiing. Norquay's groomed intermediate slopes *are so carpet-smooth that the* resort happily offers the world's only such guarantee: ski for an hour, and if the grooming isn't perfect, you get your money back.

Lake Louise has serious scope *and variety:* trees, bowls and chutes. But even though it is the largest single area in Canada, Lake Louise can be skied in a day or two. The new Whiskeyjack Lodge, in stunning hand-cut timber, is one of the most impressive in North America. Sunshine Village straddles the Continental Divide and has the most sensational natural snow I have ever skied, but it is also blasted by cold winds. The recently opened Goat's Eye mountain *has the kind of open off-piste* that skiers from the Alps crave.



HOW TO GO

■ *The Canada This Winter* guide can be ordered from the Visit Canada Centre (0891 715000: 50p per minute). About 58 tour operators go to Canada, the same number as last year; only France attracts *more UK operators, with 78.*

Thomson, Crystal, Inghams and Airtours all offer charter flights to Calgary and Vancouver this season; Neilson and First Choice go to Calgary only. And all six offer both Whistler and Banff.

Inghams (0181-780 4444) has the biggest programme, with 11 resorts. Crystal (0181-399 5144) offers an unusual option on its Jasper holidays, stopping over in Edmonton at the world's largest shopping mall.

*Thomson (0990 329329) pro*poses two-centre holidays in Sun Peaks and Whistler. First Choice (0990 557755) counts Mont Tremblant among its six resorts. Neilson (0990 994444) has multi-resort holidays mov*ing among* Whistler, *Banff* and Jasper.

Airtours (01706 232324) confines its choice to the Banff resorts and Whistler, but with some good chalets in the latter.

Ski the American Dream (0181-552 1201) was the first firm to feature North America and now offers a rated service in six Canadian resorts. Frontier Ski (0181-776 8709) is one of the pioneering firms to Canada, featuring all the resorts *reviewed* above, plus safaris and snowcat skiing.

Ski Independence (0990 550555) features four Canadian resorts. Ski Safari (0171-262 5069) started only last year but already covers all the small *resorts reviewed above.* Made to Measure (01243 533333) and Momentum Travel (0171-371 9111) are experienced tailor-made specialists. Other operators include All Canada (01502 565176) and Skiworld (0171-602 4826).

For Internet users, here are some useful Web sites. Details of all the Intrawest resorts at http://www.intrawest.com. Information on skiing in BC is at http://skicentral.com/britishcolumbia.html. Safety information is at http://www.csac.org.

Lake Louise offers serious scope and variety with trees, bowls and chutes

SNOW REPORTS

■ Historical snow depths will be reported, along with snow *conditions, for resorts featured on the* Ski Club of Great Britain's Web site, http://www.skiclub.co.uk.
That means Internet users accessing the Ski Club's pages will be able to track this winter's snowfalls at a particular resort and compare them with snow depths going back decades. But don't look yet.
Although Zermatt, Saas Fee and several Austrian resorts are open for skiing, the SCGB snow report pages will not be online before November. However, do look out for the SCGB's new magazine, *Ski and Board*, a facelift for the old *Ski Survey* incorporating more snowboarding.

■ The Criterium de la Première Neige (00 33 47906 0660) runs from *December 11-14 in Val d'Isère this year.*
This famous opening-season party brings racers and resort owners together with ordinary skiers for World Cup ski races and events on and off the slopes.
Skiers in a hurry to get to the snow should consider the tiny Auvergne resort of Le Lioran (0033 47149 5008), which has a ski lift from the train station platform to the ski slopes.
Gamblers with nerves of ice should try their luck in Megève. Opening at Christmas in a former bus station, the Casino de Megève (0033 45093 0183) *will feature* blackjack and roulette and 1930s decor.

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SKI WEEKEND: HELI-SKIING

WORLD PICTURES

Canadian firms have built up 30 years' worth of experience and infrastructure, which gives skiers the reassurance of rescue helicopters, emergency bivouacs, avalanche evaluation and weather and communications stations

Wild times with the ultimate ski lift

Forget those ill-informed critics: helicopter skiing with an expert organisation is the best fun you can have on snow, says **Doug Sager**

Whump . . . whump . . . whump. The rotors of the Bell 212 JetRanger pound through the crisp Arctic air like hammer blows, in sync with my elevated heartbeat and with a low-frequency force I can feel to the soles of my feet.

The pilot roars over our kneeling, huddled group and kicks the clattering machine into a tail-high stall turn, diving steeply and driving flat across the glacier floor to slide in inches away from my outstretched hand.

As designated doorman, I catch the pilot's eye, pop the hatch open and usher my nine fellow heli-hounds on board. They all wear goofy grins, some more ridiculously rimed than others from helter-skelter tumbles through the thigh-deep powder snow we've just farmed into thick furrows down 1,800 vertical feet.

I put on the rear cabin headset to listen in. The pilot and our chief guide, Mike Wiegele, are deep into a tactical discussion: headwinds, and which hill to attack next. Over the years, I've done some 1.5 million vertical feet of this kind of skiing. But I am bouncing with enthusiasm to do it again, and Mike is radioing ahead to push back lunch. He too wants to squeeze in one more run.

Helicopter skiing is simply the most fun you can have in the snow. A full season of resort skiing is no match for just one week of helicopter skiing at Mike's 3,000-square-mile powder playground in the Monashee and Cariboo ranges of interior British Columbia.

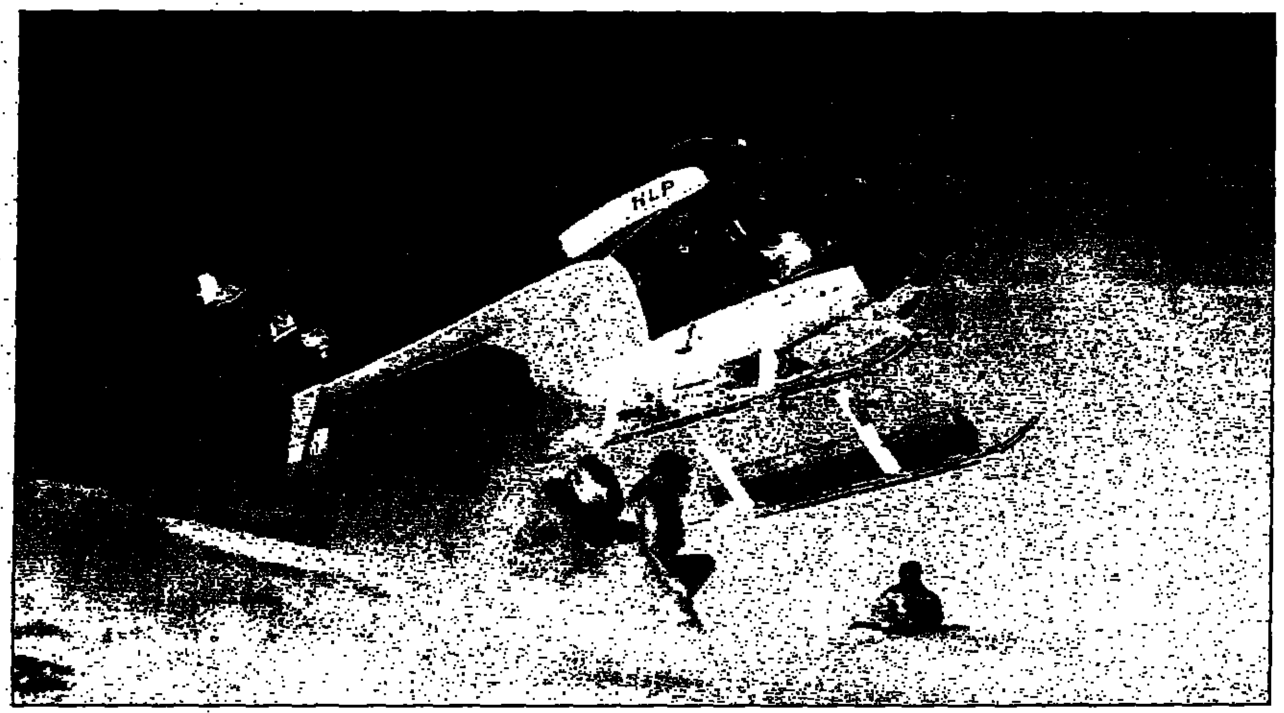
Much nonsense has been written about helicopter skiing, usually by those who have experienced only resort-based operations, or the even more limited flights permitted in the Alps.

Some outdated myths persist: helicopter skiing is said to be unconscionably dangerous, unaffordably expensive and only for experts.

Many skiers are confused by what are entirely different types of helicopter skiing. A day anywhere is good for a trial. But nothing compares to a full week in Canada, staying in remote lodges and flying out every day, all day into the wilderness. This is the classic helicopter skiing experience, invented in Canada almost 30 years ago and today best represented by the world's two largest operations, CMH and Mike Wiegele (MW), both of whom feature huge territories — bigger than all the ski resorts in Europe put together — under concession from the Canadian Government.

In a week, skiers can easily ski 150,000 vertical feet of open glacier and densely forested terrain, the helicopter waiting at the bottom of each run.

Smaller Canadian operations based near ski resorts, such as the three in Whistler, have less expansive terrain but offer the ideal opportunity to try helicopter skiing for just a few runs. The skiing standard there is generally intermediate, and runs less impressive than with MW or CMH. A package of three runs costs about £200.



Outdated myths persist that heli-skiing is expensive and for experts only: modern reality in Canada is different

Canadian-style helicopter skiing, where helicopters can take off and land anywhere, is illegal in the Alps. Helicopter skiing is banned altogether in France, ecologically unacceptable in Austria, and allowed only in certain regions of Switzerland (most notably Zermatt and Verbier) and in Italy, best on the Monte Bianco and Monte Rosa massifs.

In Europe, helicopters are allowed only to land at specifically designated points and altitudes. A single flight in Italy starts at about £50, and is nearer £125 in Switzerland.

There is no landing zone in the Alps that is not accessible — sometimes fairly easily — to skiers climbing uphill. I have witnessed mountain-top confrontations in Switzerland with ski tourers, who resent helicopter skiers taking the easy way up. Alpine helicopter skiers are often forced into long traverses in order to ski to valley floors to pick up road transportation home.

The danger in Canadian helicopter skiing is more innate than invited. Flying in helicopters and landing them spectacularly, in some instances on knife-edge ridges, is one element of risk. Weather is another. Wilderness terrain can be as unwelcoming as the open ocean. Avalanches are a constant hazard, as is the less-publicised but no less fatal phenomenon of tree wells: helicopter skiers risk suffocation if they fall into holes left around tree trunks where falling snow has been blocked by overhanging branches.

These are the inescapable downsides of skiing anywhere in true wilderness, compensated for by the experience and infrastructure that Canadian helicopter' skiing firms have built up during the past three decades.

Standby rescue helicopters, remote emergency bivouacs, weather and communications stations and constant avalanche evaluation provide some reassurance. But helicopter skiers depend ultimately upon themselves and their guides.

Discipline is essential. Every skier undergoes proficiency exercises in finding buried objects with an avalanche transceiver. All have hands-on training in helicopter evacuation. Any skier failing to ski within bounds delineated by the guide is sent home. No one approaches even a shut-down helicopter with skis carried higher than waist level.

It is the thrill of deep snow lying as nature intended that excites the wilderness skier. And the wilderness can never be entered without risk. In the history of Canadian helicopter skiing, one skier per year is killed on average. In a similar 30-year period, on average 80 skiers per year die in the Alps from avalanches alone.

In the hedonistic calculus, helicopter skiing is a bargain. For the passionate skier with more money than time, measured on a scale of vertical feet skied in, multiplied by feet of deep powder snow of such a degree of crystalline quality — minus hours spent standing in lift queues — Canadian helicopter skiing comes in at a fraction of the cost of resort skiing anywhere. A week at MW, including all helicopter flights, guide fees, meals and accommodation, starts at around £2,500 (excluding flights from Britain).

And you certainly do not have to be an expert to do it. I have heli-skied with children of seven and grandmothers of 70. The secret is wide-body powder skis, about the dimensions of waterskis. These add ten years to any skier's experience and have reduced injuries dramatically. Both MW and CMH have courses for absolute powder beginners. And no one in any group is pushed beyond their limits.

There are some objective reasons for choosing MW over CMH. At CMH, one helicopter is assigned to four groups of eleven skiers, with only one guide per group. This means *much* longer waiting periods for pickups than with MW, where one helicopter services only three groups of ten skiers at most.

More crucially for safety, MW always uses two guides per group. That means one additional fully equipped guide behind you as backup, not just one guide hundreds of metres ahead.

MARK JUNAK

Hover cover: check you are insured

GIVE IT A WHIRL – SAFELY AND SECURELY

■ I have skied with all the firms listed below, except *TLS* and *Klondike*, both highly rated by experienced helicopter skiers who used them last season. Among Canadian specialists, James Orr (0171-580 7883) is a new UK travel agent specialising only in helicopter skiing. He can book the romantic TLS (formerly Tyax Lodge); remote Klondike in the Yukon and Revelstoke-based Selkirk Tangiers, as well as Mike Wiegele. MW can also be booked direct at Blue River headquarters (001 250 673 8381). Klondike accepts direct bookings (001 604 938 0727).

■ Powder Skiing North America (0171-736 8191) is the UK agent for CMH, which cannot be booked direct. Frontier Ski (0181-776 8709) represents RK Heli-Skiing, based at the family resort of Panorama, and all three Whistler-based day helicopter operations.

■ *In the Alps, Ski Weekend* (01367 241636) is Britain's most ambitious tour organiser for serious as well as for novice helicopter skiers. The Ski Company (0171-730 9600) offers thrilling descents on the Ruitor glacier from its Yellowstone Chalet in Ste Foy, France. *Powder Byrne* (0181-871 3300) has helicopter skiing options in the *Grindelwald region*. And Collineige (01276 24262) has a long-standing *programme* of Swiss and Italian descents for its Chamonix clients.

■ Check you are fully insured before helicopter skiing. Crystal and Inghams are the only mainstream tour operators whose insurance specifically includes helicopter skiing, but only as part of their package holidays. Snowcard (01327 262805) is one of the few specialist insurers with full off-piste and helicopter skiing cover for independent skiers, valid world-wide.

■ Some of the heli-ski companies listed, such as the overseas-based ones, are not bonded. This means your *money is not protected if the company* gets into financial difficulties. Pay by credit card for the protection it affords, and book your air ticket separately with an agent that holds an ATOL, ABTA or IATA licence.

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The programme commences with a flight from Gatwick to San Jose, before transferring to the Pacific coast. For our 15-night stay we have arranged accommodation at the sophisticated, European managed 4-star Playa Tambor Hotel situated on its own glorious beach and ideal for a relaxing stay or as a base from which to explore the national parks.

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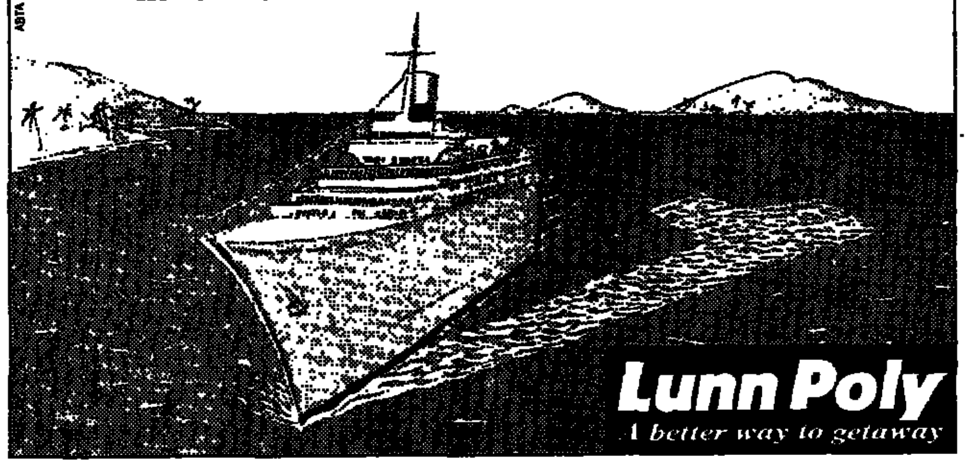

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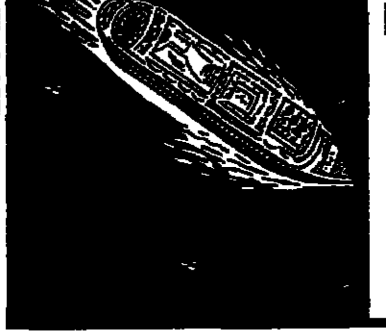

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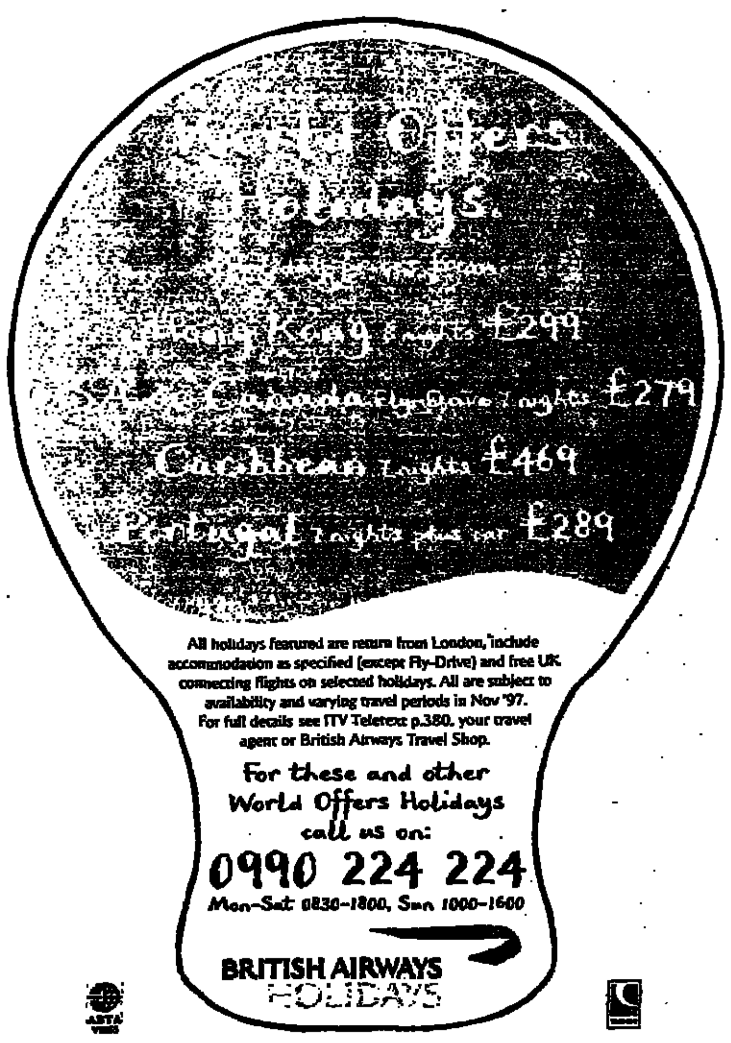

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Forget auld acquaintance, for singles there is a jollier way to celebrate New Year's Eve, says **Jo Carlowe**

BBC

The cast of *This Life* may not be too bothered about who sleeps where, but if you don't want to end up on a crowded couch book a holiday cottage with enough beds

This Life is great for a party

Celebrating the new year is always tricky for the single twenty- and thirty-somethings. You are too old to go clubbing, too young to be sipping port in front of the television, and not so desperate that you want to go home to your family.

The solution? Hire a cottage, grab a party of like-minded friends and hole up in the middle of nowhere for a week. It is exactly what the cast of *This Life* or *Friends* would do if they went away together for new year.

The idea of getting away from it all with a group of unattached friends is a very 1990s thing. This is the decade in which single power has become a force to be reckoned with. One need look no further than the popularity of the two cult television shows to know that friends have become surrogate family.

And so it is that professional twenty- and thirty-somethings, with time off work and cash to spare, are teaming up in droves to see in the new year away from their extended family and childbearing, nappy-wielding peers.

Lisa, 32, met her husband-to-be, Nicky, 36, an antique jewellery dealer, on such a cottage holiday. "When it came to New Year's Eve, I was always worried I would not be invited anywhere or, if I was, that it would get to midnight and I would be the only one without someone to kiss," said Lisa, a schoolteacher from Barnet, north London.

One year she traipsed to Trafalgar Square, only to spend the whole night trying to avoid the lunging lips of passing inebriates.

"I loathed New Year's Eve so much that I used to offer to babysit — and this special night came to mean babysitting," she said.

Two years ago everything changed. Lisa teamed up with a friend, Fiona, a 33-year-old BBC broadcast assistant from Hampstead, north London, who was already a veteran of the cottage boom. "We wanted to escape, to spend the new year with friends somewhere nice in the country and make a whole week of it. In this way, New Year's Eve itself would lose its significance and there would be no anti-climax," Lisa said.

Aware that New Year's Eve was fast approaching, they took a risk and booked a cottage for eight, confident that the vacant places would be easy to fill. They plumped for somewhere situated off the beaten track, at Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. It cost about £400 — cheap when divided eight ways.

Fiona wanted an equal gender divide. She found four willing female friends, but getting the men was more tricky. Taking a gung-ho approach, she asked two men she hardly knew. She had seen them at a couple of social functions and decided they would fit in. Finally, an eclectic group was gathered: an Irish lawyer, several London professionals, and Nicky.

Two weeks before going on holiday they all met up in a café to discuss the shopping and transport arrangements. For some it was the first time they had met. Judith, 32, an office manager, described it as a compromise between going away with close friends and joining a singles holiday with total strangers. By December, three of the men were no longer single but they went anyway.

"I tried to have intimate telephone conversations with my new girlfriend but the others were always around," complained Graham, 37, a personnel officer.

Another group member confessed: "Graham is a romantic. His calls were a little flowery, a bit gushing. We couldn't help but listen in."

The most enjoyable aspect was the general laid-back feeling of the week — a great relief after a frenetic year at work. Days tended to begin with a late breakfast, which sometimes carried over into lunch and afternoon tea.

Some days involved sightseeing or country strolls, while afternoons, according to Graham, consisted of a never-ending quest for the "ultimate cream tea". The evenings were equally stress-free, with the cold tempered by alcohol, chat and the occasional game of Trivial Pursuit.

"Everyone was so easy-going, and besides the weather was so atrocious that no one would have been able to go stomping off as everything was under five inches of ice," Lisa said. New Year's Eve itself was spent in the pub, ruined by a two-man band "murdering" old ballads. "If this had been New Year's Eve at home it would have been terrible, but because we had the whole week it didn't matter," she said.

Of course, not all group holidays run like an episode of *The Waltons*. John, 29, a journalist, found little to celebrate when he joined his girlfriend and mates at their holiday cottage. The others had arrived several days earlier. John had failed to realise that the icy British winter would compound the sense of group warmth that was building up inside the beamed cottage with its open fire. The extreme cold, combined with a heady mix of free-flowing alcohol and a festive attitude, proved a dangerous cocktail. By the time John arrived, he found his place as boyfriend had been usurped by another — more *This Life* than *Friends*.

However, the Nicky/Lisa romance was all above board, although it did not really start until a month later. "During the week I couldn't take my eyes off her, but there was the pressure of the group, so if I had tried anything and it had not worked out I would have ended up with egg on my face," Nicky said.

The couple are to marry in April — with young bridesmaids. "All those New Year's Eves spent babysitting weren't in vain after all," Lisa said.

> 'I loathed New Year's Eve so much that I used to be quite happy to babysit for all my friends'

MARTIN GEDDALL

CHANNEL 4

Getaway people: back row, from left, Fiona, Graham and Judith. Front: Lisa and Nicky. Right: stars of *Friends*

HOW TO PLAN YOUR ESCAPE

THE larger the group, and the more popular the area, the earlier you need to book for Christmas and new year. "For this year, most of the larger properties have gone," says Mike Dean, of Blakes Cottages. "Places with thatched roofs and open fires tend to go first, as do those in central locations such as the Cotswolds. People like New Year's Eve in a castle, so if you want a quirky property, book a year in advance. But groups of six to eight people prepared to go off the beaten track can still find places."

HOUSEHOLD TIPS

"A prerequisite of any house party is a decent ratio of bathrooms, showers and WCs. Heating should be good and open fires or wood-burning stoves are essential," says Rural Retreats.

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Helpful Holidays (01647 433593) has properties in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset.
Other operators include Country Holidays (01282 445095), Northumbria Coast and Country Cottages (01665 830783), Welsh Country Cottages (01328 851341), Country Cottages in Scotland (01328 864011) and West Country Cottages (01626 333678).
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Interior of Hunter's Hollow in Northumberland

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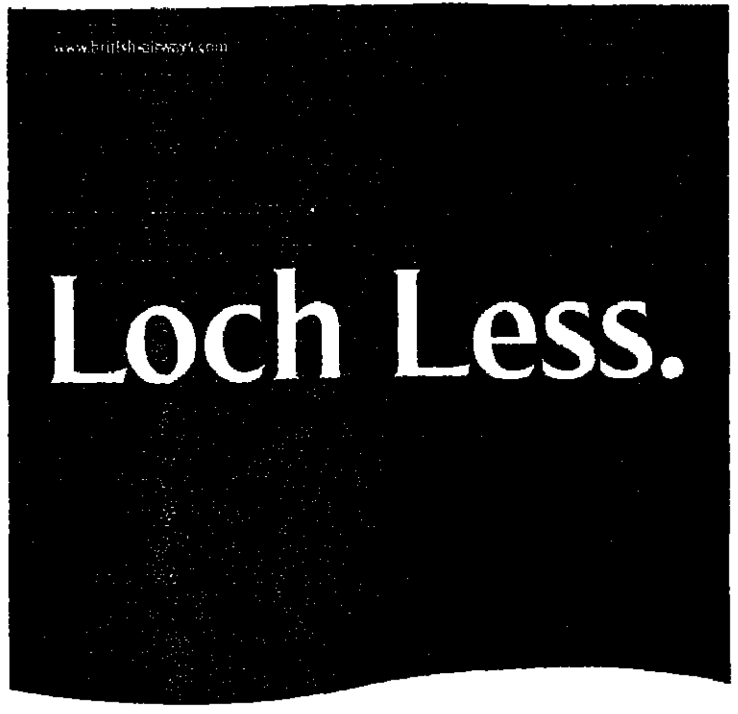

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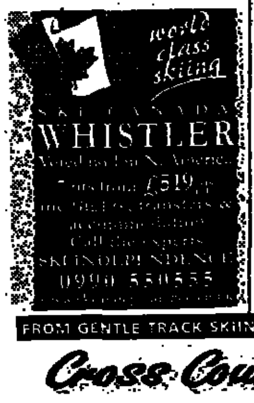

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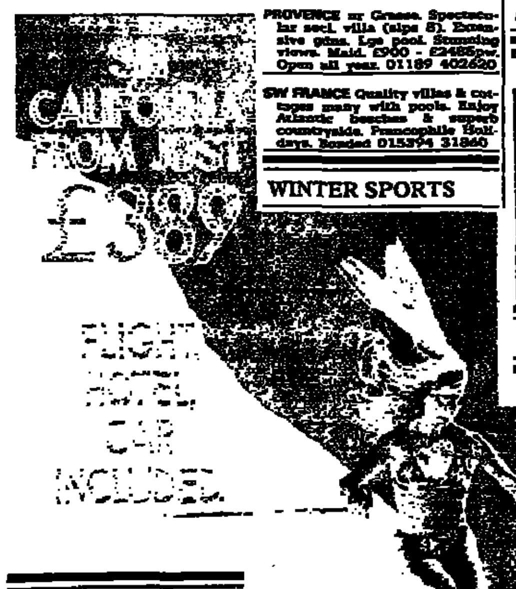

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VINCENZO PINTO

Firemen survey the 13th-century bell tower at Foligno, just one of Italy's medieval treasures damaged by four earthquakes and 90 smaller tremors

Shattered by the recent earthquakes, Assisi will also have to count the cost in lost visitors, says **Steve Keenan**

The Italian earthquake that devastated the Basilica of St Francis is expected to result in long-term tourism losses for the town of Assisi. With the upper church closed for at least two years, several tour operators to Umbria are rescheduling their 1998 programmes to Assisi.

Another company this week wrote to customers cancelling an annual Christmas Eve visit to the basilica for Midnight Mass. The Alternative Travel Group had staged the event for the past three years and expected another full complement of 16 visitors this year.

Chris Whinney, the company's managing director, said the cancellation was inevitable as work continues to assess damage to the 13th-century basilica. But while Assisi will lose visitor revenues, he said many customers were seeking ways to make donations to the rebuilding of the basilica and other monuments in Umbria.

"We have had a lot of people wanting to contribute. There have been 40 to 50 letters. They are very upset on behalf of the people of the area and the loss of their livelihoods."

The company will still offer Assisi in its 1998 brochure. But other operators, including Ramblers Holidays and Prospect Music and Art Tours, have replaced the town with other Italian destinations.

Attracted by the basilica — the biggest tourist draw of the region — visitors pack Assisi during the summer. Yasmin *Sethna, a spokeswoman for* Magic of Italy, said: "Most of the towns in Umbria are medieval and the best attraction of Assisi is the basilica, which is one of the most stunning in Italy."

Damage caused by earthquakes in central Italy forced the company to stop taking bookings for all bar one of its *hotels in Assisi*, including the Subasio next to the basilica.

But, in common with other operators to Italy, the main earthquake on September 26 was within three weeks of the summer tourist season ending *and relatively few British tour*ists were affected.

Those who cancelled travel plans were primarily holidaymakers making a pilgrimage to Assisi, specifically to visit the basilica, including three people who booked through the Dublin office of Italiatour.

Four people were killed when part of the frescoed ceiling by Giotto and Cimabue in the upper basilica came down. It is hoped to reopen the lower church within a week, provided the seismic activity has died down.

But scaffolding in the upper church to enable restoration will not be in place until at least next April. Last week, a spokesman for the Friars of Assisi said he hoped the upper church could be reopened with a Christmas concert in 1999.

PACK YOUR BAGS

☐ **Its currency may be in turmoil, but Hong Kong is still buzzing. Departing from Heathrow on Wednesday and Thursday, Qantas Holidays (0990 673464) has return flights and five nights' room-only accommodation at the *Grand Tower Hotel for £569*, reduced from £899 — a saving of £330. Extra nights from £65 per person. British Airways Holidays (0990 224224) has *Hong Kong breaks de*parting before November 30: three nights at the Wesley Hotel cost from £299 per person including scheduled *flights from Heathrow and* room-only accommodation.**

☐ Oxford is being taken over: from today to November 2, music fans will head for Radio 1 Sound City (01865 794494), an indie/dance extravaganza at various venues. The Lightning Seeds, Sleeper, Dubstar, and DJs Judge Jules and Pete Tong are among the acts appearing. Contact the tourist office (01865 726871) for accommodation.

☐ **Enjoy Hallowe'en at one of Scotland's many haunted hotels. *The Meldrum Hotel* (01651 872294), Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire, offers half-board accommodation for £114 per person per night — and possibly the "White Lady", famous for her icy *embrace*. A lone bagpiper haunts The Colquhonnie Hotel (01975 651210) in Strathdon, Aberdeenshire, which has half-board accommodation for £42.50 per person per night. More information from the Scottish Tourist Board (0131-332 2433).**

☐ A week's sunbathing in The Gambia is £289 per person with The Gambia Experience (01703 730888). Departing on Tuesday (October 28), the price includes B&B, flights, transfers and taxes.

JOANNA HUNTER

Departures Monday October 27 to Saturday November 1, 1997: Lowest available published fares for return travel.

Route	Promotional Fare	Flexible Fare
London – Amsterdam	from £58 Easyjet (ex-Luton)	£199 Transavia (ex-Gatwick)
London – Berlin	*£90 Air UK/KLM* (ex-Heathrow/Stansted/City)	*£470* BA (ex-Heathrow)
London – Dublin	from *£59 Ryanair* (ex-Stansted/Luton)	from *£99 Ryanair* (ex-Stansted/Luton)
London – Edinburgh	*from £58 Easyjet* (ex-Luton)	£198 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
Manchester – Madrid	*£99* Iberia	£610 Iberia
London – New York	from £179mw/£209we Icelandair (ex-Heathrow)	£844 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
London – Prague	£149 BM (ex-Heathrow)	£422 BM (ex-Heathrow)
London – Paris	*£59mw/£69we* BM (ex-Heathrow)	£222 BM (ex-Heathrow)
Newcastle – Paris	£108mw/£118we *Air France*	£415 Air France
London – Venice	£126 Air UK/KLM (ex-Heathrow/Stansted)	£516 BA (ex-Heathrow)

Airline telephone numbers

Air France: 0181-742 6600
Air UK/KLM: 0990 074074
British Airways (BA): 0345 222111
British Midland (BM): 0345 554554
Easyjet: 0990 292929
Iberia: 0171-830 0011
Icelandair: 0171-388 5599
Ryanair: 0541 569569
Transavia: 01293 596650

Notes

- * mw-mid-week; we-weekend
- * *Prices shown in the left-hand column are the lowest published* excursion fares. Prices shown in the right-hand column are the lowest available flexible fares which do not require a Saturday night stay and *which, in many cases, allow changes or cancellation without penalty.* In all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when booking.
- * Availability is not guaranteed.
- * *Fares shown do not include any applicable taxes or security fees.*

It's all a question of tax

AIR Passenger Duty (APD) doubles to £10 for *European Union countries and £20 for long*-haul destinations from next Saturday, but most airlines are still not including the tax in their advertised prices.

Passenger groups feel customers are being misled into buying tickets without knowing the full cost, and are urging the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) to recommend that the practice be scrapped.

When the increases take effect, it will cost £80 in duty for a family of four to visit Florida, instead of £40 at present. The Air Transport Users Council, a watchdog body, believes duty has reached such a high level that airlines should be obliged to include the tax in their advertised prices. "We want people to know *about all the various costs they're having to pay* at the time of booking," said the Council. "The problem is that airlines are reluctant to change their ways because they feel it might affect *business. That's not being honest."* Airlines, however, say the Government is using them as a way of raising taxes. By separating APD from the standard cost of the ticket customers know how their money is being spent.

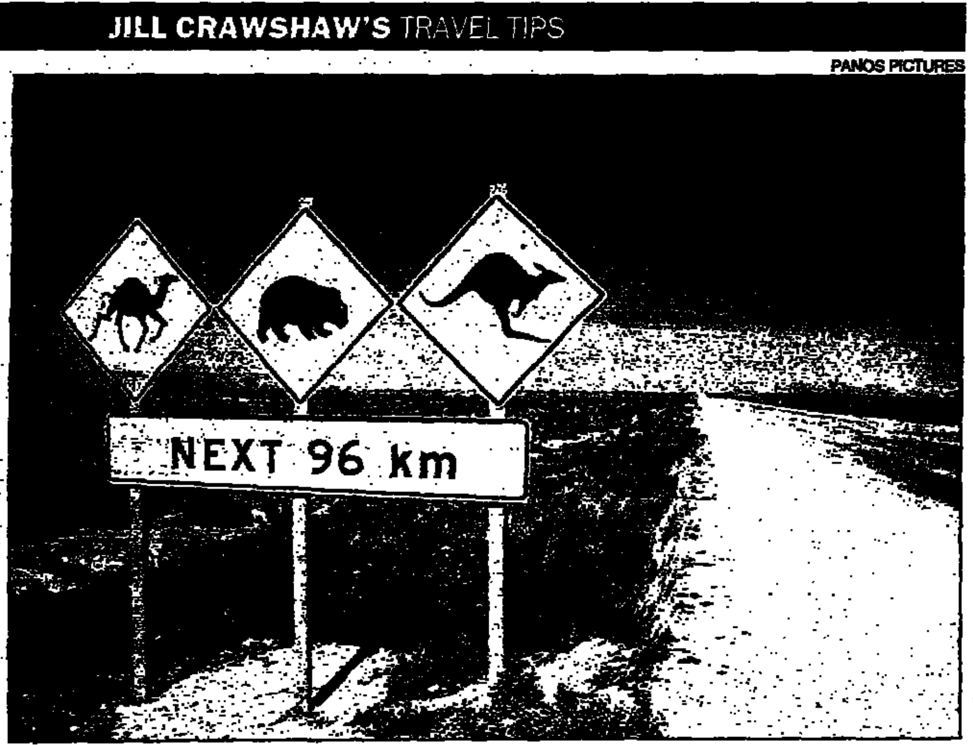
All tour operators that are members of ABTA (the Association of British Travel Agents) have agreed to include duty in package-holiday prices, but many which have flight-only wings have been reluctant to add duty to flight prices. They feel this would put them at a competitive disadvantage against airlines.

The ASA is investigating the problem and is due to report its findings in mid-November. It said: "Consumers should not be misled by advertisements and we may well ask airlines to *include duty in prices."*

TOM CHESSHYRE

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

PANOS PICTURES



Watch out for the wildlife: road signs along the Nullarbor Plain in South Australia

Take a break in Brisbane

CAN WE look forward to *package holidays in Brisbane* instead of Bodrum, swap the Canaries for Cairns or Sorrento for Sydney, now that the Thomson Travel Group, Britain's largest tour-operating organisation, has bought Austravel? *Thomson says it* does not plan to offer packages immediately and the Australasia specialist will continue to trade under its own name. But Thomson is clearly eyeing the growing market for holidays *Down Under* — as opposed to trips taken by "VFR passengers" (Visiting Friends and Relations). About 450,000 of us head to Australia each year. Charles Newbold, Thomson Group's managing director, anticipates a considerable boost from travellers to the millennium celebrations and Sydney Olympics in 2000, but his first aim is to increase *sales in continental Europe.*

Santa Claus is flying high

YES, Father Christmas is alive and waiting for special British Airways *red-nosed* Boeing 737s to take to the sky over Manchester. The 45-minute Santa Specials start on December 7 and *will operate* every weekend up to and including Christmas Eve. For £67, passengers take part in a search for Santa in the sky until he suddenly appears with his high-flying sleigh and sacks of presents. For more information call 0161-832 7972.

Picked pockets

POLICE in Budapest have stepped in to curb pickpocketing. Squads of tourist police patrol the streets and are easily identified by their *blue baseball caps*. Apparently, two gangs of pickpockets have been put out of action already by the police presence.

The Hungarian National Tourist Board (0171-823 1032) expects about 250,000 Britons to visit Hungary this year.

■ **TAKE the panic *out of* Christmas catering on a three-day cookery workshop at The Riverside at Helford, Cornwall (01865 400825). Clare Latimer, who has catered for prime *ministers* and who began her cooking career at Helford, will advise on recipes including stuffing for the Christmas goose and other *traditional foods*. The course runs from November 14-16 and costs £175 per person for accommodation, all meals and cookery demos.**

Stepping out

TWO tour operators, specialists in different continents, have joined *forces to offer* customers tailor-made holidays in Africa and Asia. Steppes East (01285 810267) was created in 1989 to capitalise on *tourism potential* in Eastern Europe following *the fall of the Berlin Wall*. The company now bridges the Indian sub-continent and South-East Asia. This year it bought Art of Travel (0171-738 2038), which has made its name in southern and eastern Africa and the islands of the Indian Ocean.

In its new brochure, Art of *Travel has prices from* £2,060 for a 16-day Zimbabwe safari to £3,640 for a 17-day Bushmen of the Kalahari tour in Botswana, while Steppes East has expanded further into Vietnam, Laos and Indonesia while adding Borneo and Malaysia. Its sample itineraries start at £1,850 for 12 nights in Sarawak, Malaysia.

Spanish scam

HOLIDAYMAKERS should beware of a scam operating in the queue to cross from the Spanish town of La Linea into Gibraltar. Waiting to cross recently to catch a homeward flight from the colony, we and others with Spanish-registered cars were approached by a group of hustlers. "You will need a 1,000-peseta ticket to take your vehicle back into Gibraltar," one of the villains *told us, attempting* to force a grubby yellow ticket under the windscreen wipers. He pursued us, saying "you will never get across without this", before tackling the next potential victim. This scam is operating despite warning signs (visible after the point where the spivs operated) that entry to Gibraltar is free and all you need is your passport.

If you do not want to queue to return your hire car — sometimes more than an hour's delay — hire firms will allow you to leave vehicles on *the Spanish side of the border*. There are two snags: you may have to carry your luggage across and you have to top up your tank with much more expensive *Spanish* petrol.

■ **VIENNA'S 700-year-old Advent markets begin this year on November 15, and a new museum is opening on November 27 in the vaults of the Stallburg palace. It is dedicated to the dancing white Lipizzaner horses *with displays* which trace the history of the Spanish Riding School since it was founded in 1572. The highlight is watching the *Lipizzaners in action*. The museum is open daily (except Mondays) 10am-6pm: entrance for adults is AS50 (£2.50). Contact the Austrian National Tourist Office in London (0171-629 0461).**

The KIMBERLEY

An expedition cruise to Australia's 'Top End' from Broome to Darwin aboard the Coral Princess

21st April to 7th May & 2nd to 18th June 1998

Imagine a region larger than Britain, with a population of only 25,000 people, two major roads, limited access to the coast and hundreds of islands and you have the perfect place for an expedition cruise.

Join us on a visit to the real 'Outback' to an area the Australian's refer to as "The Land of Wait A While" - Kimberley has seldom been in a hurry. It was the last great empty section to be explored, with European settlers arriving only just over a hundred years ago. Ignored by the early explorers, Kimberley today is one of the richest areas of Australia. Record gold and diamond rushes, great cattle drives and hauls of pearl shells have put the Kimberley on the economic map, yet for all its latterly discovered wealth it still remains one of the most untouched areas in the world today.

Rarely visited in any depth because of the undeveloped nature of the region, it is a wonderful place for the genuine traveller to explore. There are so many highlights it is difficult to know where to begin. From the tidal phenomena at Montgomery Reef to the horizontal waterfalls near Talbot Bay; from the hundreds of islands in the Buccaneer Archipelago to the gorges of the Mitchell, King George and Prince Regent rivers and from the fertile Ord River Valley to Lake Argyle. The whole vast area offers a cornucopia of natural world delights on a scale seldom witnessed *anywhere else in the world.*

THE 'CORAL PRINCESS'

For our visit we are using the Coral Princess, an ideal vessel carrying up to 54 passengers. Normally employed on Australia's Great Barrier Reef, this 114 ft luxury catamaran is designed for maximum *stability and guest comfort*. All cabins are air-conditioned, have outside views and private shower and toilet. There are two lounges, bar, large sun and observation deck and spa. The food on board is delicious and served with a fine selection of Australian wines. For our forays ashore we will use a *specially designed high-powered* excursion boat and Zodiacs.

The expedition leader will be joined by knowledgeable guides and park rangers as we journey along the Kimberley Coast. Each will add much to your enjoyment and understanding of this unique area by providing informal talks on board as well as travelling with us on our forays ashore.

Prices per person in a twin bedded cabin range from £3695 and from £5045 for the sole occupancy of a double cabin.

Price includes: Economy class air travel, 10 nights aboard the Coral Princess on full board, port taxes, 4 nights hotel accommodation on breakfast only basis, shore excursions, sightseeing in Perth and Darwin, transfers, guest speakers, local guides & wardens, expedition leader, UK departure tax, Australian airport taxes.

Not included: Travel insurance, gratuities, helicopter flights.

VISIT THE BUNGLE BUNGLE FROM DARWIN

One of Australia's most extraordinary places is the Bungle Bungle National Park and its beehive-shaped sandstone domes with spectacular orange and grey bands. It is an area of awe inspiring beauty which only came to the attention of the public in 1983.

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Join a 10 night cruise in Cairns visiting Lizard Island, Davey Reef, Tyderman Cay, Forbes Island and reef, Cape York, Thursday Island, Port Essington and Tiwi Islands ending in Darwin.

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LADIES

AMIABLE, agnostic American author fiftyish seeks slim, stylish lady journalist, editor or smart arts, science, legal worker forties who likes Bach, beaches or just talking and mainly quiet eves at home munching healthy foods. Coffee at the British Museum? Please Reply to Box No 7871

ARE you over 5'10, but under 55? Tawny-haired tall widow in rural Sussex misses good conversation, culture & companionship, seeks well educated, kind, n/s gentleman. This lady is a special client of Elite Introductions Box No 8052

ARE you tall, 55+, widowed, easy going, amusing, sometimes lonely. Do you like country life, music, good food and wine, UK travel? So do I! Let's meet. Wilts/SW. Box No 8165 ☎ ✍

ARTICULATE, slim, attractive woman, late forties, who enjoys cinema, walks by the sea and red wine, WLTM intelligent, warm, empathic man! Bristol area. Please write to: Box 8183 ☎ ✍

ATTRACTIVE, independent, loyal, slim, late 40s prof female seeks tall, n/s, educated 50s man (GSOH) for cultural & social pursuits. Long term. Central London. Photo. Box 8209 ☎ ✍

BEAUTIFUL, but lonely Philippino lady, 29, single parent, petite, long black hair, loyal, sensuous, stylish, based S. Yorkshire. Looking for a caring loving successful, family, orientated gentleman. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Bx 8204 ☎ ✍

BEAUTIFUL blue-stocking, blonde, slim, mid 30's. Sporty and very affectionate. WLTM caring, unattached prof man (to 50) with trad values for new beginnings. London and Home Counties Box 8214 ☎ ✍

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CONFIDENT, attractive, fun loving, highly successful lady, 37. Seeks very successful like minded unattached gentleman who like me enjoys good food, travel, fine wine, golf!? and relaxing company. London based. Reply to Box 8215 ☎ ✍

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE. Attractive 50+ woman seeks part-time husband in area. Box No 8306 ☎ ✍

GOOD-LOOKING and successful, highly educated professional, slim, elegant brunette with blue green eyes, caring, loyal and straightforward, young early 40s. Enjoys theatre, cinema, good food, travel and reading. Seeks compatible, attractive, sincere professional N/S, 40s. London. Photo please. Reply to Box 8127 ☎ ✍

INTELLIGENT, attractive lady, well read. Professional, seeks similar gentleman Circa 50-60 for relationship. London/Suffolk. Bx 8137 ☎ ✍

INTERNATIONAL professional lady (European background), 35, would welcome friendship/relationship with unattached professional gentleman (up to early forties). Passion for life, travel and success (how do you define it?) required. If you, like me, think it unlikely to meet a soulmate through an ad(!), but would like to give it a try, please write to Box 8057. London and Thames Valley ☎ ✍

LADY, London SW. W.L.T.M. gent professional or retired who enjoys the good life. 55-65. Must enjoy a meal out a bottle of wine, be sophisticated, smart. In my 50s slim, smart and tactile, quite attractive. Looking for gent who likes travel, coastal walks, entertaining, maybe Christmas away. Please write. Photo appreciated. Box No 8188 ☎ ✍

LIVELY lady, attractive, cultured, SOH, youthful 60, enjoys good company, arts, travel. Seeks male counterpart for lasting relationship. Sussex. Letters only. Box No 8140 ☎ ✍

NOTTS/Leics/Lincs/Derbys 100s quality ladies of all ages already belong to our local, personal & effective service. Call Elite now for free information pack 0115 937 6104

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ORIENTAL woman graduate, very attractive, late 40s, love Arts. Sensitive, seeks man 48-59 for meaningful relationship. Box 8190 ☎ ✍

OR you could call Club Encounters today on 0800 141 141

PRETTY warm prof. slim 5'6 seeks n/s arts loving 50s man Photo. Herts Bx 7924 ☎ ✍

RAMJI aap ki Sita yaad kar rahi hai! Professional Hindu Punjabi, 32, 5'5" n/s in London hoping to hear from 'Ramji' to help make the future fun and exciting. Desired, 31-36, professional, tall (5'8"+) optimistic outlook, confident, genuine, n/s, ambitious. Address in that instance would help 'Sita' make contact. Box No 8233 ☎ ✍

RELUCTANT Superwoman, attractive prof, brunette with smiling eyes, seeks amusing intelligent nearly-hero 46+ as co-star in forthcoming attractions. Thames Valley. Box No 8047 ☎ ✍

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SINGLE professional female, 43, tall, slim, attractive, lively, varied interests. Seeks tall striking man, 38-45 for fun and relationship. Letter/photo please North West Bx 8158 ☎ ✍

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SPORTY, stylish, well travelled, adventurous, sensual lady seeking desirable soulmate, warm, sophisticated, stylish, sports loving, very intelligent gentleman (45-55) dynamic & sense of adventure. Home & children important. Cheshire will travel! Box 8220 ☎ ✍

TRENDY attractive lady with own business WLTM well dressed, cultured, business gentleman with GSOH to spend quality time. Dorset area Reply to Box no 8181 ☎ ✍

VERY nice, unpretentious attractive woman fed up with being single! Slim 40, wide interests (inc. sailing) needs a genuine man to share realistic view of life - perhaps even life itself. Why not get in touch? Please Reply to Box No 8171 ☎ ✍

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INTELLIGENT, attractive, sensitive, separated lady, young 42, seeks a sensitive and reliable friend, 40-55, with wit & a passion for classical music. London. Box No 7690 ☎ ✍

JUST 50 but still a lovely laughing lady with a Cambridge Degree and a Corrado Storm hoping to meet a kind intelligent fellow for interesting fun outings. Box No 7668 ☎ ✍

LIVELY lady, 60, looking and feeling much younger, slim, attractive brunette. Interests: Classical music, painting, books and good food and wine. If you are 65+ and n/s why not write and tell me about yourself? N. London if possible. Please Reply to Box No 7465 ☎ ✍

GENTLEMEN

AIRLINE captain, 46, seeks intelligent, athletic, successful woman. Intentions: raise family, be happy. Me: Oxbridge, fit, laid-back, reasonably sorted-out. You: not certain, but I think I'll know... Southern England. Box No 8199 ☎ ✍

ATTRACTIVE 6ft prof man, 38, fit, kind, easy going, Indian. Enjoys laughing, alternate therapy, theatre, travel, Yoga. Seeks slim/medium build warm female. Any nationality. London/SE. Box No 8191 ☎ ✍

AT Last! OK! This is it! Prof. gent. 50 (feels 40), dry SOH, tall, slim, fit, solvent, successful, genuine, single due to overwork, but now must ACT! Therefore, WLTM tall, slim, younger (25-35) attractive lady who is fun, active, happy, honest, uncomplicated & relaxed, & wants to travel, socialise, be looked after & enjoys being together, possibly for ever! W.London/ Home Counties. Please write with photo to Box No 7982 ☎ ✍

ARMY Officer serving in Bosnia is missing fine wine, fluffy towels and other luxuries! I WLTM an interesting lady to aid my imminent restoration to real life. London, Midlands, anywhere. Box No 8193 ✍

ATTRACTIVE, tall, dark, stylish male, 42, romantic, financially secure, loves music, theatre, antiques and all the good things in life, WLTM tall attractive, elegant lady with GSOH for friendship, romance and possibly more. Photo appreciated. ALA London, Bucks/Oxon Reply to Box 8216 ☎ ✍

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CARIBBEAN for Xmas. Is there a petite sensual female age up to 50 who would like to join me. Surrey/ Sussex/ Hants/ Wilts. Photo essential. ALA. Bx 8186 ☎ ✍

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E.MIDLANDS 60ish country loving graduate seeks intelligent loving female. Box No 7907 ☎ ✍

DIFFERENT but not eccentric. Colourful, intelligent, intuitive, energetic, educated. Late 40's. GSOH. Seeking good looking confident soulmates. Prof NE. Photo please to box 7753 ☎ ✍

EARLY sixties retired lawyer seeks informal lady of fifty or so to share everything. Interests in current affairs, left-of-centre politics, humanism, literature, food, wine, home and garden and a tolerance of smoking and occasional moods would help. London area only. Photograph required. Box 8160 ☎ ✍

ENGLISH ROSE required to tame 44 year old blue eyed n/s male, who has finally admitted to himself that he is no longer 25 years old and it is about time he settled down. Has flat in London and house in country Please reply with photo if possible to Bx 8207 ☎ ✍

GENTLEMAN of warmth and intelligence, 45, tall and attractive, seeks an affectionate lady (35-45) for cuddles & conversation. N.London/Home counties. Box No 8157 ☎ ✍

GOOD LOOKING, 30s guy, 6', fair, blue eyes, fit, not into the bar scene, with own successful business. WLTM attractive, slim, affectionate, fun female, 25-35, interests dining out, fine wine, fast cars and foreign travel. Please write with photograph. London/Home Counties Reply Box 8113 ☎ ✍

GOOD LOOKING, tall, Public School man with sincere kind nature, enjoys travel, the arts, history, sport, the countryside. Seeks similar attractive female 37-45 to cherish always London/Midlands & S.W. Photo Please ALA Bx 8230 ☎ ✍

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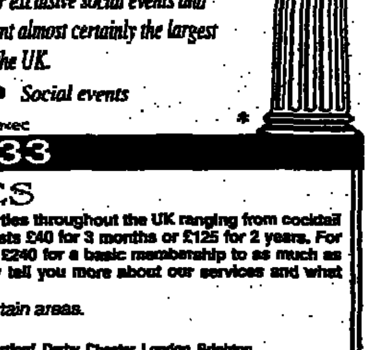
THE TIMES

HELLO! I'M CHRIS



I used to work for one of the largest introduction agencies in the U.K. Our members kept asking me:

Why won't you refund our fees towards any other introduction service in Europe if we're not happy?

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Why didn't you tell me my 'matched' members lived 200 miles away, and would be unlikely to want to meet me anyway?

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Signed Chris 1997

E.C. 07000 499 8833 E.C.

" They call my wife ' *the doyenne of match-makers* ' - whatever that means. All I know is, she meets all her clients and matches them personally. Computers aren't good enough I suppose " (Bill Halson, husband of Penrose)

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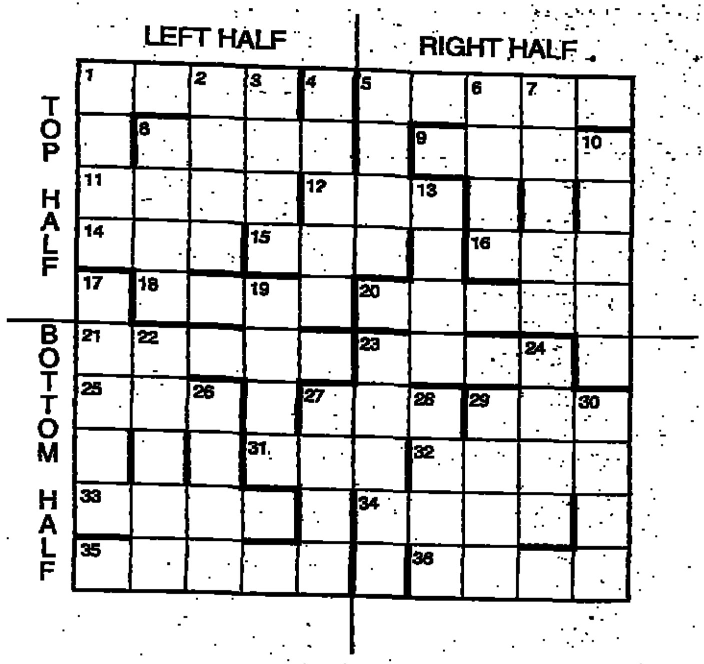
LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3433: Primes IV: Four Halves by Piccadilly



THE letters P, R, I, M, E and S each represent one of the prime numbers two, three, five, seven, eleven and thirteen but the numerical values of the letters (which are to be deduced by the solver) are different in each of the four halves of the diagram, across entries being divided into top and bottom halves, down entries into left and right halves; no letter has the same value in different halves.

Before entry in the diagram, each answer must be transformed to one of the number bases between two and eleven inclusive; one row and one column of the diagram correspond to each number base. If necessary, in base eleven use X to stand for ten; *for example 1690 (base ten) would* appear as 12X7 (base eleven).

Clues follow the normal rules of algebraic notation, only asterisked clues lead to palindromic diagram entries, and no diagram entry has zero as its first digit.

ACROSS

*1 PI
5 RIP
8 PRIM
9 P (P + R + I + M + E + R + S)
11 ISIS
12 PIE
14 PIPER
15 SIRS
16 PS + PPS
18 PERM
20 EERIE
21 MR
23 PS
*25 MM
27 (S + E + E)R
29 SEES
31 MM + MR
32 M + I + M + E + MIMES
*33 SSS
34 PIE + PIE
35 PEEP + PEEPS
36 MP + PIMP

DOWN

1 RIPP
2 SRS
3 SESS
4 PEP
5 RISES
*6 EME
7 (S + E + E + M + E) (S + I + M + P + E + R)
8 PEPPE + R + S
10 EMP (I + R + E) + EMP (R + E + S + S)
13 REMISS
17 PRIME + PIES + M + I + S + S
19 IM (P + R + I + M + E + S)
22 PEEPS
23 SEE + SIMPS + SIP + P + E + P + S + I
24 PEP - SI
26 ERR
27 PS
28 PIPE - R
*29 E(M + E + R + S)E
30 PRESS - ERS

LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3433
in association with Waterstone's

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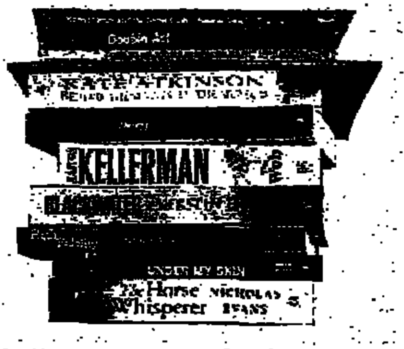

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E	A	S	T	A	R	T	S	C	O	D	E	R	W
N	S	T	R	I	G	O	L	A	B	E	Y	E	D
I	S	E	R	R	A	N	A	R	K	A	N	C	S
B	E	L	C	A	R	A	N	T	O	N	G	U	E
N	S	L	A	G	D	E	D	U	C	T	O	R	A
O	W	A	R	H	R	S	E	R	O	U	S	E	T
O	A	R	D	U	R	C	R	E	S	S	E	S	A
R	K	I	L	L	C	O	P	R	P	A	R	E	S
T	E	V	E	N	S	W	E	E	H	G	M	R	H
C	R	I	A	S	O	R	N	T	E	N	E	R	D
E	I	N	S	T	U	I	U	R	A	T	I	A	E
L	E	G	E	N	D	S	R	O	T	U	N	D	A
	F	E	R	S	N	E	Y	D	W	E	L	N	

Solution and notes for No 3430
A Catalogue by Apex

CORRECT LETTERS: WATERSTONE'S

MEMBER'S DONATIONS: PLAYWRIGHTS

The members of the catalogue were playwrights: PINTER, MILNE, COWARD, YEATS, SHAW, ARDEN, WILDE, SYNGE, FLETCHER, ORTON, IBSEN. Having donated a letter, each was anagrammed to form a word in the perimeter of the diagram.

The winner is Gordon Johnstone, of Alnwick, Northumberland. The runners up are John *M. Brown of Rolleston-on-Dove, Staffordshire;* J.R.C McGlashan of Selsey, West Sussex; Robert Trees of Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland; Stewart Fowlie of Edinburgh; D.I Tomlinson of Carshalton, Surrey.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

ONE OF the key matches of the 1997 Generali European Championship was that between The Netherlands and Italy. The Netherlands eventually finished sixth, narrowly missing the last qualifying spot for the Bermuda Bowl. The Dutch declarer might have improved his team's chances on this hand:

Dealer West *East-West game* *IMPs*

North:
♠ A Q J 9
♥ J
♦ 10 8 7 3
♣ Q 8 4 3

South:
♠ 6 4
♥ A K Q 10 5 4 3
♦ 2
♣ K 7 6

Contract: Four Hearts by South.
Lead: the jack of clubs

After three passes, South opened Four Hearts and was left to play there. He ran the jack of clubs lead to his king, and played ace and king of hearts: West followed once and discarded a spade on the second round, with dummy discarding a diamond. On the next two hearts both dummy and West discarded a spade and a diamond. What should declarer do now? In practice he took a spade finesse; East won and put his partner in with a diamond. West switched back to clubs and the defence took two club tricks to beat the contract. The full deal is shown in the next column.

Do you see what South should *have* done after drawing *trumps?* Playing clubs would have been no better — the defence can always arrange for West to play a spade through before the thirteenth club is set up.

North:
♠ A Q J 9
♥ J
♦ 10 8 7 3
♣ Q 8 4 3

West:
♠ 10 8 7 5 2
♥ 6
♦ A Q 6 5
♣ J 10 9

East:
♠ K 3
♥ 9 8 7 2
♦ K J 9 4
♣ A 5 2

South:
♠ 6 4
♥ A K Q 10 5 4 3
♦ 2
♣ K 7 6

The editor of the Championship bulletin, Jean-Paul Meyer, pointed out that South should have exited with a diamond. That is a communication-cutting play. If West wins and attacks clubs, declarer plays the queen and eventually sets up a club trick with the defence unable to set up a spade trick. If West plays a *spade, declarer finesses and the* defence only gets one club trick. And if East wins and returns a diamond, declarer ruffs and plays clubs himself, again putting on the queen.

As the play went, East-West did well to cash their tricks — if they had tried to take a second diamond that would have been fatal. I presume that on the first club East played the two — this being a "count" situation. Thus West knows that there are definitely two clubs to cash.

It would be more difficult if East's clubs were, say, A 7 6; but he plays the six on the first round and the seven when declarer ducks the nine of clubs, thus showing that he started with three.

● *The Times Book of Bridge 1 by Robert Sheehan is available from bookshops, or from BT Batsford (01376 321276), at £6.99 plus £1 p&p.*

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 32

RECALESCENT
(c) Glowing with heat again, temporarily, at a stage in the process of cooling down from white heat. From the Latin for "heating up again".
FARCEUR
(c) *Strictly speaking in the French, the writer or actor of farces.*
MEGAPOD
(b) With enormous feet, from the Greek.
APORIA
(b) Patently insincere professings. A term of Roman rhetoric.

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THE World Chess Federation, Fide, has devised a new plan to determine the World Championship. It will be a 100-player knockout with the final stages to be held in the Olympic Museum at Lausanne in January next year. However, *what the chess world wants* to see is a one-to-one clash between Kasparov, the world champion, and Vladimir Kramnik, who has repeatedly demonstrated his tactical ingenuity and a psychological toughness. A World Championship between the two would be fascinating. This week's game shows Kramnik against one of the world's most feared attacking players.

White: Vladimir Kramnik; Black: Alexei Shirov
Tilburg, September 1997
King's Indian Defence

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 g6
3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6
5 d4 0-0 6 Be2 e5
7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7
9 b4 Nh5 10 Re1 f5
11 Ng5 Nf4 12 Bxf4 exf4
13 Rc1

White has surrendered the bishop pair. However, Black's kingside has been weakened by pawn advances and the square e6 beckons to a white knight.

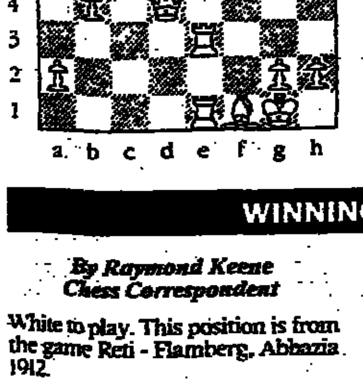
13 ... Bf6 14 Ne6 Bxe6
15 dxe6 Bxc3 16 Rxc3 fxe4

Black now has an extra pawn, but White's pieces are well mobilised and the passed pawn on e6 proves a constant danger.

17 Bf1 e3

Black's extra pawn cannot be held, so Shirov returns it in order to undermine White's own king's safety.

18 fxe3 fxe3 19 Rcxe3 c6
20 Qd2 d5 21 cxd5 cxd5
22 Qd4



It is important to prevent Black from freeing himself with ... Qb6. The text also sets a diabolical trap with a most beautiful sting in the tail, namely 22 ... Nf5 23 Qe5 Nxe3 24 e7 Rxf1+ 25 Rxf1 Qd7 26 Rf8+ Rxf8 27 Qh8+!! Kxh8 28 exf8/Q checkmate.

22 ... Qd6 23 Qc5

Black sees through White's machinations, but now that his tactical defence has failed, White's heavily supported passed pawn becomes the *dominant factor.*

23 ... Qf4 24 Rf3

And not 24 Qxe7 on account of 24 ... Qf2+ 25 Kh1 Qxf1+ when the tables are decisively turned.

24 ... Qg5 25 Rf7 Rxf7
26 exf7+ Kxf7 27 Qc7

Kramnik has decided, at first sight somewhat surprisingly, to transform the advantage of the passed pawn into one of mobility of attack against both Black's king and his queenside pawns.

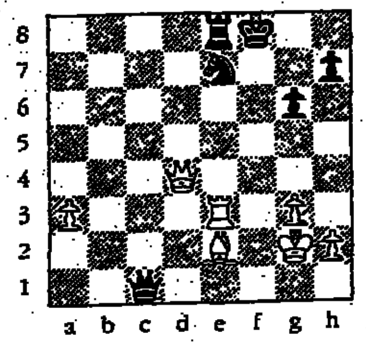
27 ... Qh4 28 Re3 Qxb4
29 a3 Qh4 30 Qxb7 Re8
31 Qxa7 d4

White was threatening Bb5. This attempt to regain the initiative now allows White's bishop to enter the fray from a different direction.

32 Bc4+ Kf8 33 g3 Qg4
34 Be2

Now all is clear. Black can no longer stay in contact with his pawn on d4.

34 ... Qc8 35 Qxd4 Qc1+
36 Kg2



Black resigns

Not only is Black a pawn down but his king is hopelessly exposed to threats such as Rf3+ and Bc4.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

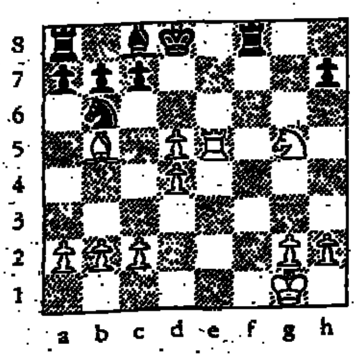
White to play. This position is from the game Reti - Flamberg, Abbazia 1912.

Here White has played in classical gambit style, sacrificing a rook for the attack. He now has the opportunity to crown his efforts with a fine finish. Can you see it?

The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition: 1 ... Qxf5

Last week's winner was: D B Winney, Barclay Springs, Whinney Hill, Stockton-on-Tees.



COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

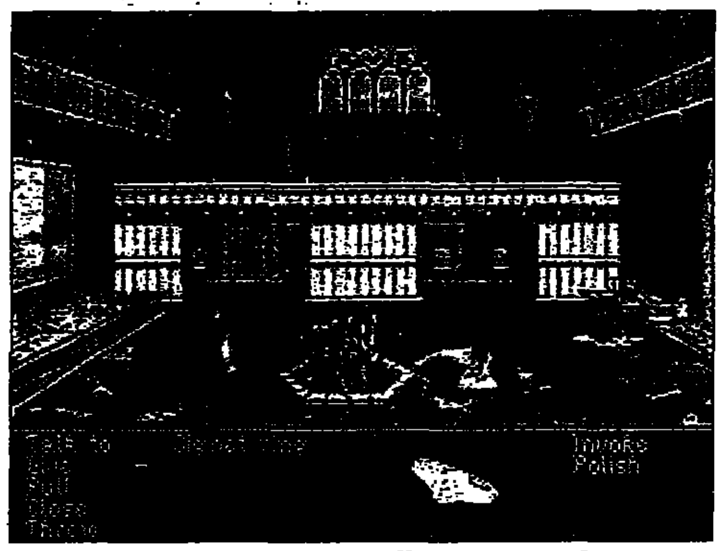
by Tim Wapshott

Price has never been a guarantee of enjoyment from new computer games, even though most now cost between £30 and £70, but there are ways to start a collection on a budget. Read on and you could be one of three *readers who each win 100 games* — but there is a catch.

One of the cheapest ways to get your hands on current games is games magazines with give-away discs. Most contain ten or so titles, some which are playable demos — *very limited versions to give you* enough of a taste to decide if it is worth getting.

If you have access to the Internet you can download thousands of free games. Search "free" and "games" and many suitable sites are listed. The free software section of Fun'N'Games (http://www.webfun.com/free.htm) has an extensive selection. Beatrice's Web Guide (http://www.bguide.com/free.html) carries details of a diverse range of Internet freebies, among them PC games.

Prism Leisure is fast becoming the Nineties equivalent of Woolworth's in software terms, coming out with dirt-cheap compilations. Now it has introduced a "3 plus 1" series, selling at £2.99. Each CD-Rom has one main title and three lesser games, all running on Windows or DOS and all Windows 95 compatible.



Prism Leisure's 3 plus 1 series offers four games for £2.99

Admittedly some creak a little, although at just 63.5p each this should be forgiven. Lurking in the collection are many oldies but goodies, like the original war combat sim Campaign, or Championship Manager 93, Master of Orion and Ishar 2. The minor titles are all shareware games, which often have a more primitive, homemade quality about them but can be absorbing all the same, such as simple platform games or minor slot-machine programmes.

Three readers can win all 25 CD-Roms in the series — 100 games in all — by answering the following question: Campaign is a game about: a) the making of a Spice Girl television commercial, b) military precision on the battlefield, c) getting the Tories back into power. Send your answer on a postcard, with your name, age, address and home telephone number, to Cyberspace Thirty-Seven, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct entries out of the mail bag *on Thursday (October 30) will win.*

There was an enormous response to Cyberspace Thirty-Six, hardly surprising with three Kodak digital cameras on offer. You had 100 words in which to describe your favourite picture or photograph, so those who only sent their names and addresses must consider themselves disqualified. Otherwise, the imagery and emotion flowed from your collective pen. For Roy Kennedy of Exeter, his most cherished photograph was taken in Iceland during the Second World War. Black and white and barely in focus, it is of the bow-wave of "fellow battleship" *HMS King George V*. "The picture is a dull symphony of greys with one touch of white, yet this relic conveys the dreariness and universal colourlessness that are still strong in my memory," he wrote. He recalls the sense of excitement when he took it, coupled with "pangs of guilt that I was probably offending against King's Regulations".

Nia Jones of Swindon treasures a snap of her dog during a country walk, sitting alert on a tree stump. "Her shiny black fur, fluffy from a recent bath, is gold-edged, caught by the late afternoon sun," she said. "Her pink tongue lolls in a smiling *mouth, her black eyes gaze with* devotion. She awaits the command that will send her gambolling along the beech-wood path to home."

More entries next week.

TWO BRAINS ANSWERS

Solutions to the questions on page 32

Question 1: 104. Successive numbers are obtained by adding 0, 1, 8, 27. The next number in this sequence (the numbers are cubes) is 64.40 + 64 = 104

Question 2: Rio de Janeiro is the only city in the Southern hemisphere.

LATEST SOFTWARE

GARY LINEKER'S Real Football: Premiership 97/98 is a soccer statistician's delight. The former England captain fronts a solid footy reference title with a sizeable database which can easily be brought up to date as the season unfolds.

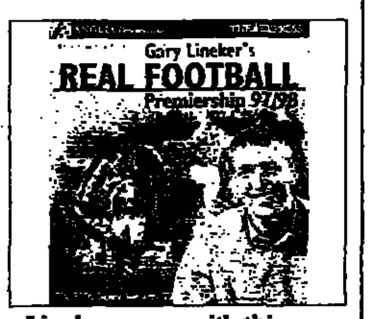
The title, developed by Definition Digital Media and released by Anglia Multimedia, features full squad profiles for all Premiership clubs together with aerial photographs of each club's grounds, transport and ticket booking information and a fun trivia section. Pick your favourite team when the Windows 95 CD-Rom first loads and it will then track its progress. Also excellent for pondering endless what-if analyses during the season. As this unfolds you can update the database manually, inputting results yourself, or using the hot-link facility to a dedicated Internet website where weekly fixture information can be downloaded in one go to automatically bring your database bang up-to-date.

The historical archive is a treasure trove of information, with match-by-match reports of the last season, based on coverage which originally appeared in the Daily Express. Summaries by Lineker also take you through the more famous games.

The *title is overrun* with detail yet slips up occasionally with unlikely vagaries — for example, the old football photographs featured have no captions. Still, here are all the football results you could currently want on one disc.

Verdict: 7 out of 10. Fascinating football fact fountain. £29.99.

IF YOU have ever fancied yourself as an opportunist landlord then **Constructor** could be the challenge you are looking for. Here you employ workmen to erect and man timber mills and cement factories then get to work building homes, police stations and even pawnshops to further fleece your unfortunate tenants.



Lineker scores with this one

Starting with a flat plot of land, you decide what goes where. First you must ensure the supply of wood and concrete to fuel your embryonic urban nightmare. Next come homes, starting with grotty little boxes and rising to palatial *mansions. Your work gangs can* also be put to use improving interiors — bedrooms, bathrooms, sitting rooms and kitchens — to attract a better class of tenant willing to meet higher rents.

Playing solo, other computer *property tycoons* attempt to undermine your business plan, as do thieves and vandals. Two to four human players can compete in network mode. The title, from Acclaim, looks terrific but lacks a decent tutorial facility. It loads through DOS.

Verdict: 8 out of 10. Build an empire with bricks and mortar. £39.99.

SOLUTION TO JUMBO 131

1 C	O	2 N	S	3 T	I	4 T	U	5 T	I	6 O	N	7 A	L	8 I	S	9 M		10 T	H	11 A	T	12 C	H	13 I	N	14 G
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15 I	G	N	O	R	A	N	C	E		16 C	A	C	T	I		17 S	A	L	V	O	L	A	T	I	L	E
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18 E	X	P	I	A	T	E		19 V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E		20 P	I	S	T	A	C	H	I	O
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37 N	O	T	I	38 C	E	B	O	39 A	R	D		40 I	N	G	R	A	T	E		41 B	R	A	S	S	I	E
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42 F	A	43 C	U	L	T	Y		44 P	A	R	A	G	O	N		45 I	L	L	U	S	T	R	A	46 T	E	D
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47 T	E	S	T	I	M	O	N	Y		48 H	O	O	K	L	I	N	E	49 A	N	D	S	50 I	N	K	E	R
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65 D	E	C	K	C	H	A	I	R		66 U	N	D	E	R	G	O	E	S		67 T	H	E	R	E	T	O
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68 U	T	I	L	I	T	A	R	I	A	N		69 A	B	O	V	O		70 E	X	A	C	T	N	E	S	S
B		V		O		W		C		C		M		U		L		N		N		I		I		L
71 T	H	E	O	R	B	I	S	T		72 E	L	E	C	T	R	O	S	T	A	T	I	C	A	L	L	Y

The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £105, is R.M. Kirby, of Exeter in Devon

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Q We have paid a large contribution towards the cost of our son's wedding reception, but much to our dismay, have been given no chance to seat our friends and relatives in the way which we should have liked. Do we just agree with the bride's mother's organisation or do we make our requests known?
— Anon

A You are right to feel upset. Nowadays there is more pooling of resources when it comes to paying for weddings, and this has brought with it an appropriate sharing of priorities. Therefore, I recommend you make your requests known, but do it gently and perhaps through a third party such as your son.

Q You have addressed the problem of replying to official letters from "Jane Smith", suggesting that there is no option but to use the "grim appellation" of "Ms". This becomes worse when one has to meet, or telephone, Jane Smith. Talking for the first time to a man, "Mr Smith? How d'ye do?" seems acceptable. "Ms Smith" is unpronounceable, and makes me want to giggle. What do you suggest?
— Michael Fletcher, Hassocks, W. Sussex

A Many people share your comical reaction to verbal attempts at "Ms". However, when the owner insists, it is polite to use it. Otherwise, you have two alternatives: the formal one, in which you inquire what a woman's exact prefix is, or the informal and more usual variant of just saying plain "Jane Smith."

Q I was interested in your explanation for the origins of how we place our fork after eating. Perhaps you could answer a question that has always intrigued me. Why is it customary to pour the tea before adding the milk?
— Jane Barton, Beverley, Yorks.

A A popular and plausible explanation lies in the quality of china during the later part of the 18th century. At this time, the poor could only afford cups made of bad quality earthenware that was liable to crack if tea was poured straight into it, and thus they took to adding milk first to prevent accidents. The better off could buy either the newly invented Worcester porcelain that was advertised as being able to withstand boiling water, or bone china with the same heat-resistant qualities. Thus, pouring the tea first became a sign of rank, while the MIF method developed the opposite connotations.

Q Please could you explain the etiquette for the call waiting system that many people have on their telephones. I know these things are meant to make life easier, but surely it is bad manners for one caller to be abandoned for any length of time, while the other is being spoken to.
— Name and address withheld.

A New technologies bring new manners. Polite call waiting relies on a kind of telephonic precedence, that works on a first come, first served basis. The person who is already talking has priory over any new call. The only exception is when the second call requires immediate attention, in which case it is polite to return quickly but briefly to the first caller with an offer to ring back soon.

Q Forgive me for sounding crude, but what should you do after emitting an embarrassing digestive noise in public?
— N.Y., London W1.

A The old rule was that such sounds did not exist socially and were thus not worthy of comment. I see no reason to tamper with this time-honoured tradition.

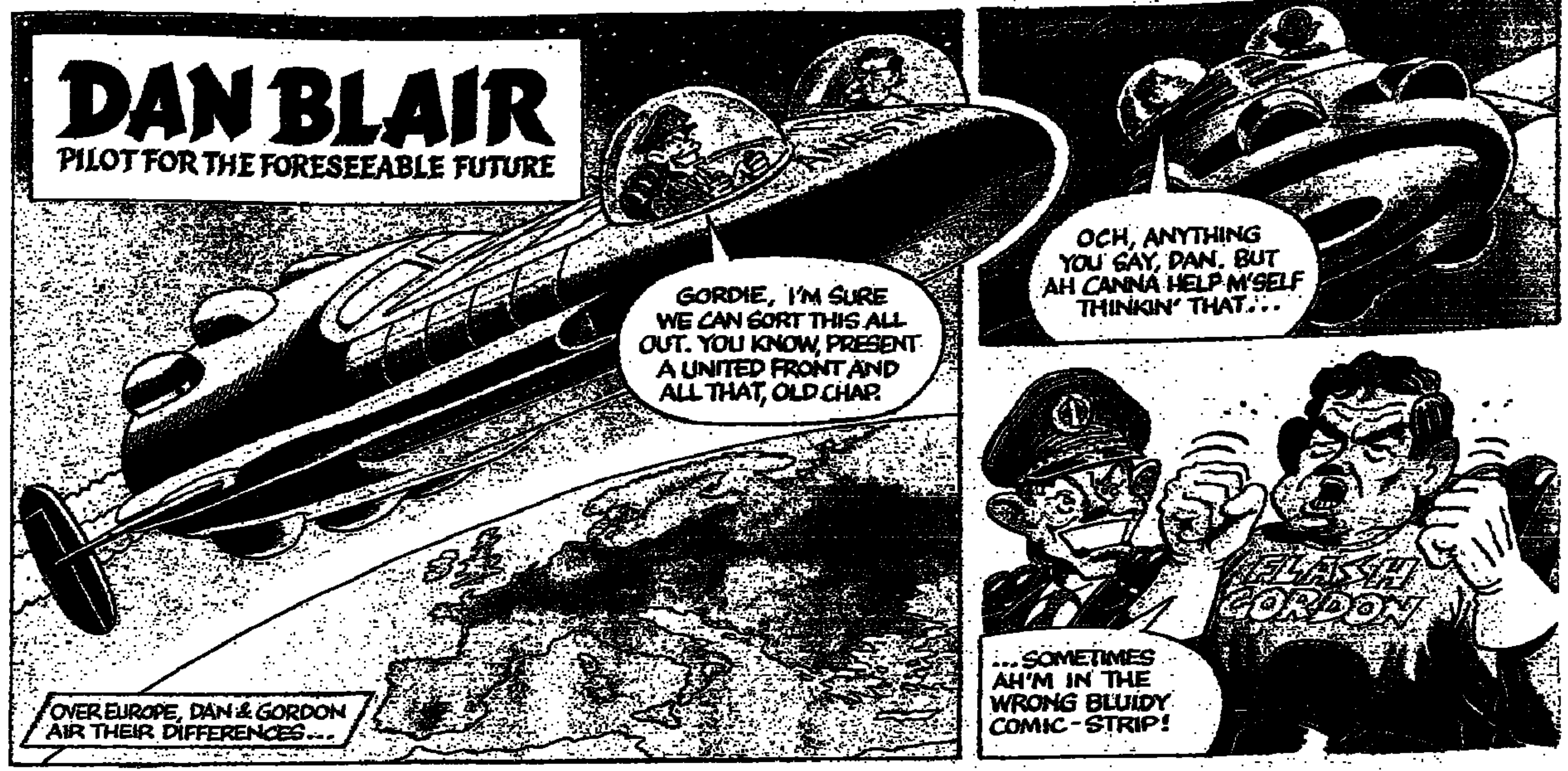
Q Following the advice you gave last week on addressing envelopes, what is the correct form of address to couples using their own names, who are living together as partners, i.e. in lieu of Mr and Mrs John Smith? Surely they are not addressed as Mr Smith and partner.
— Barry Chamberlain, Hampton Bishop, Hereford.

A Absolutely not. The correct way to address an envelope is to use only one side of the partnership:; in the case of social correspondence, it is traditional to write the woman's name. But if you wish to use both names, it is appropriate to style each couple individually, i.e.: John Smith Esq and Miss Jane Brown. In the case of same-sex couples, it would be Geoffrey Green Esq and Peter Pink Esq, with the elder partner's name appearing first.

Q Please could you advise me on the correct procedure for leaving a dinner party when one is staying with the hosts? When going back to our house in London, we simply choose an appropriate moment, and leave. But when my husband and I are staying the night, can we politely go to bed when we feel like it, or should we dutifully hang on until the last guests have gone?
— Sophie Davies, London W11

A The correct procedure when staying overnight with the hosts is for all "home-team" guests to wait until other guests have left. Thereafter, there is no pecking order in retiring for the night, unless there is a guest of honour, in which case it is courteous to wait until he/she calls it a day.

John Morgan is associate editor of GQ. *Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners,* The Times, *Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.*


DAN BLAIR
PILOT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE
GORDIE, I'M SURE WE CAN SORT THIS ALL OUT. YOU KNOW, PRESENT A UNITED FRONT AND ALL THAT, OLD CHAP.
OVER EUROPE, DAN & GORDON AIR THEIR DIFFERENCES...
OCH, ANYTHING YOU SAY, DAN. BUT AH CANNA HELP M'SELF THINKIN' THAT...
FLASH GORDON
...SOMETIMES AH'M IN THE WRONG BLUIDY COMIC-STRIP!

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

RECALESCENT
a. A down escalator
b. Elderly
c. Glowing again

FARCEUR
a. Stuffing
b. A builder
c. A writer of comedies

MEGAPOD
a. A broad bean
b. With big feet
c. A dinosaur

APORIA
a. A bad rash
b. Insincere professings
c. Disorientation

Answers on page 31

TWO BRAINS

"If anything is good for the mind, it is memory training. Memory training develops all cortical skills and trains the whole of the brain using both hemispheres. The techniques of using association, imagination and location employ all elements of the brain."
- Dominic O'Brien, World Memory Champion.

Question 1:
What is the missing number?
4 4 5 13 40 ???

Question 2:
Which is the odd one out?
Madrid, New York, Stockholm, Cairo, Bombay, Rio de Janeiro, Beijing?

Answers on page 31

RAYMOND KEENE

CROSSWORDS

by Michael Rich

IN HIS opening article, Brian Greer referred to Ross Beresford and myself as the co-editors of the Listener crossword which appears each Saturday in this section. Every so often, we will inhabit his column to tell you more about the Listener crossword (and Mike Laws and Richard Browne will discuss the Jumbo and Crossword Two, respectively).

The Listener was a BBC publication that folded in 1991. After a short hiatus, and to the intense relief of many, *The Times* took over publishing its crossword. It is, quite simply, the most difficult crossword published on a weekly basis anywhere in the world. Actually, this may be an unprovable boast, but I am assuming that no foreign language crossword can cap it; certainly no English-language rival can.

People sometimes tell me that the Listener crossword is becoming *too* difficult. Becoming? Little do they know! Nowadays, because the editors take special care to ensure that a solvable crossword is presented each week, it is rare for fewer than 100 correct entries to be received (yes, we keep statistics).

In the past, and it is a long past — this week sees No 3433 appear — there would sometimes be not a single correct entry.

In prewar days you might have been asked to complete a diagram in Greek or Latin. Mathematical "crosswords" appeared up to a dozen times a year, and they required a degree of mathematical competency well beyond the level demanded from entrants now.

WHAT HAS changed is that the editors attempt to solve every puzzle *ab initio*, on the basis that if neither of us can solve it, then it must be nearly unsolvable and therefore almost certainly unfair. We do occasionally allow through an obscure puzzle, but if you keep trying you will find that you will succeed more and more.

The satisfaction of completing your first correct solution is, I promise, well worth the struggle.

PICTURE LINE

READERS are invited to suggest what Christine and Neil Hamilton, pictured right, might be saying.

This picture, published recently, will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, October 29.

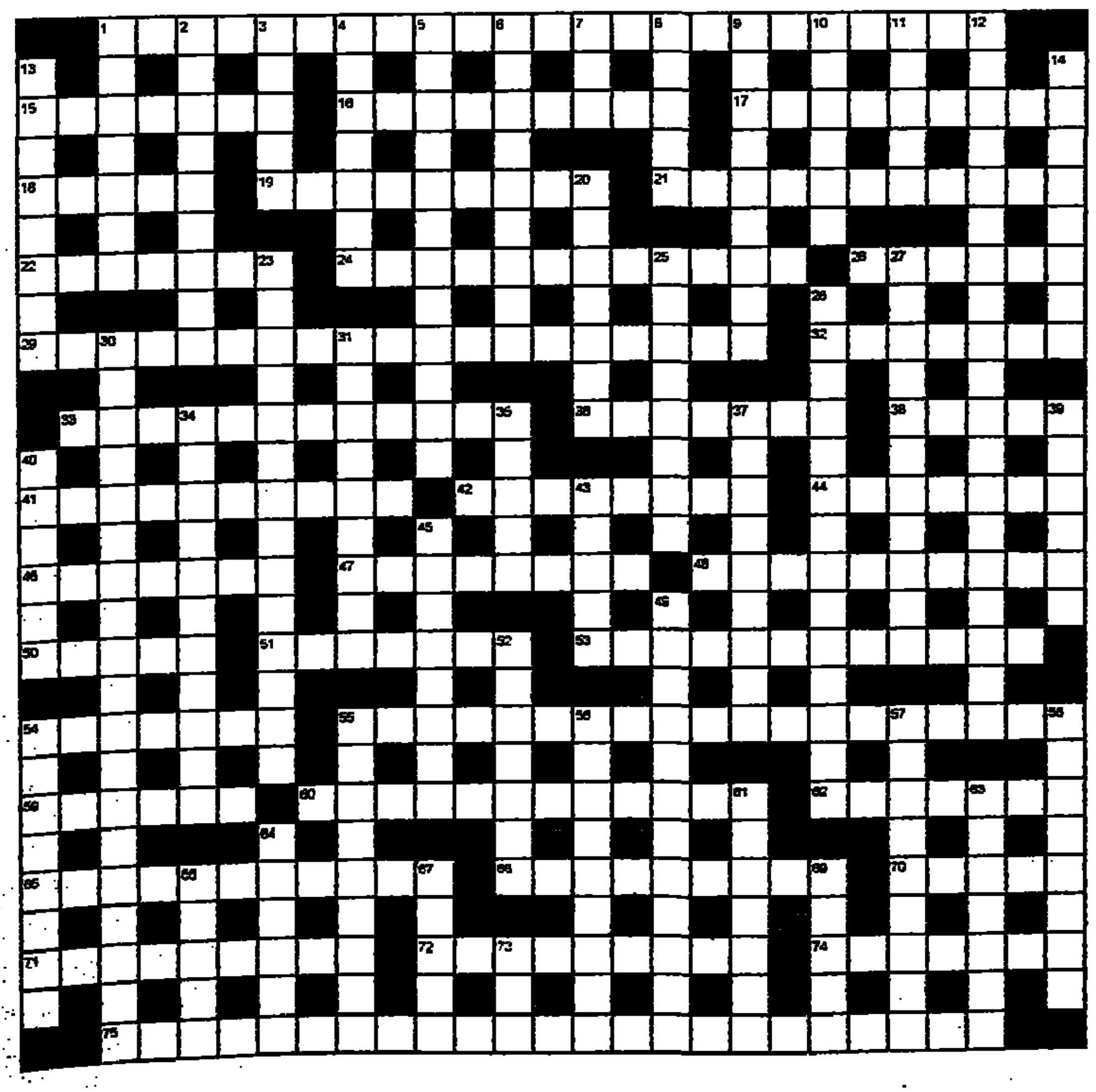
Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by D.H. Stratton, of Altrincham, Cheshire.

PETER MACDIARMID

JUMBO CROSSWORD 133

ALFRED DUNHILL
LONDON

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £105, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from silver-plated black resin, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 133, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Monday November 3. The name of the winner will be published in Weekend on Saturday, November 8.

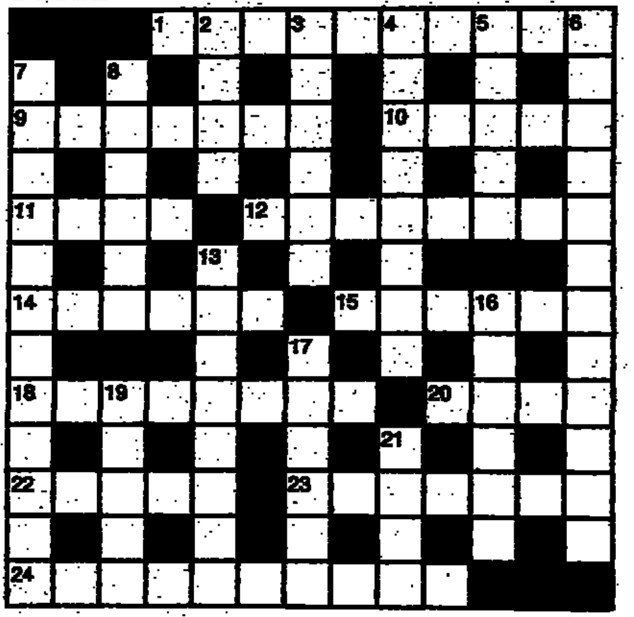


NAME ....
ADDRESS ....
....
.... POSTCODE ....

ACROSS
- 1 Blacksmith should act opportunely (6,5,3,4,2,3)
- 15 Appropriate bit (7)
- 16 Claim to be undergoing metamorphosis relating to chemical processes (9)
- 17 Type of engine going off course incurs such a penalty (3-6)
- 18 Swiss mathematician's sound lubricator (5)
- 19 He's made responsible for applying second covering of paint round a dowel (9)
- 21 Remain alert at dawn, and begin to solve a mystery (3,8)
- 22 Suggested mischievous child was untruthful (7)
- 24 Walling material's pine — one needs an extra yard (8-4)
- 26 English girl given rise, and top job in magazine (6)
- 29 *React instantly and arrive* at floor 5 (3,3,6,7)
- 32 Watch TV broadcast, do (7)
- 33 Washington's false claim about ecstatic part of conjugation — (7,5)
- 36 — affair's dealt woman a blow! (7)
- 38 Roam in the mountains (5)
- 41 Drawing level with rival, I celebrate (10)
- 42 Device for switching footwear (4-4)
- 44 Craft, if at sea, constitute this (7)
- 46 Gain a companion — single woman? (7)
- 47 One of several children volunteers in jousting practice (8)
- 48 Ceremonial offical became rare after Revolution (4-6)
- 50 Characteristic attitudes in Soviet hospitals (5)
- 51 Pull fish back to sheltered side of boat (7)
- 53 Horatius made certain Tuscans were in Surrey, perhaps (12)
- 54 Two Latin chaps involved in game (7)
- 55 Admire Pooter's work remarkably (4,7,8)
- 59 Bandage man after heavy blow (6)
- 60 Unheard, you finally left and girl entered — it's not on (12)
- 62 Fondle rented fur (7)
- 65 Again finding sorry device in need of repair (11)
- 68 Parts of garden chair that is beginning to splinter (9)
- 70 School getting scholar's letter from abroad (5)
- 71 Wise man — mother has his hair combed (9)
- 72 One merely observing brandy set out (9)
- 74 A churchman, I am involved in gossip (7)
- 75 What uneventful holiday provides is of little value (7,2,5,4,5)

DOWN
- 1 Second fish almost used up in fish dish (7)
- 2 Brighten up when brush fire's put out (9)
- 3 Bewails having succeeded after showing enthusiasm (5)
- 4 Australian natives cut up bananas (7)
- 5 Racing with a fair chance of success (2,3,7)
- 6 Add fictitious details as English Mr holds new Mrs with love in heart (9)
- 7 Her responsibility was the underworld, largely (3)
- 8 Indians, for fear of what could happen, stopped short (5)
- 9 Footballer may be flying (2,3,4)
- 10 Line on map shows one well — a watering-hole (6)
- 11 Very keen on the Spanish holiday facility (5)
- 12 Should picture of a sort come in from there, demonstrating ESP? (7,12)
- 13 Villa perhaps is hard to electrify (8)
- 14 Stupidly secretes money from Caesar (8)
- 20 Temporary quarters housing a new set of occupants (7)
- 23 To be contrary, little girl left some beef, having eaten some fish (3,4,5,2)
- 25 Whinging, Christopher possibly drinks the French plonk up (8)
- 27 Mastermind a new campaign supported by Russell (11)
- 28 Regular feature writer can't skive (5,3,6)
- 30 Consistently penetrating, despite all difficulties (7,5,3,4)
- 31 Citrus, round, somehow quainter (9)
- 34 Pirate's story narrated for one in a craft (11)
- 35 Brief chapter in story set up dazzling effect (5)
- 37 A couple of pages with increases in values (9)
- 39 They say Northern river should build a corvette (6)
- 40 Auxiliary verbs act in a specified way (6)
- 43 Particular position in a field (5)
- 45 Sailor hurried round and took over (8)
- 49 Had the brands moved about four inches (5-7)
- 52 Increasingly smart — and that's admitted by doctor (7)
- 54 Beef over strike one had to support (8)
- 55 Remaining incomplete, underwear collection's no good (9)
- 56 Henry, in land and water transport, shows competence on safari (9)
- 57 Using alias, lowly employee enters hostelry — it appears old (9)
- 58 Filled with excitement — it's a date! (8)
- 61 Saw farm animals following ewe's lead (7)
- 63 Beat a doctor in final (7)
- 64 One showing superiority raised excellent little shrub (6)
- 66 Jack used as bait (5)
- 67 Young oaf being boorishly obstreperous, primarily (5)
- 69 Page one edged with deep colour (5)
- 73 In class, I remember how to address master (3)

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1234

ACROSS
- 1 Where Alice adventured (10)
- 9 Setting up (machine); decorative book design (7)
- 10 Less constrained (5)
- 11 (To the) front (4)
- 12 Relief; remit (punishment) (8)
- 14 Persist (6)
- 15 Head armour (6)
- 18 Postponing; book storage (8)
- 20 Insect; in the ear, a rebuke (4)
- 22 Henrik —, *Hedda Gabler* author (5)
- 23 Attain, acquire (7)
- 24 Moderation; teetotalism (10)

DOWN
- 2 Chief Norse god (4)
- 3 Kept following; persistent (6)
- 4 One rectifying abuses (8)
- 5 White poplar (5)
- 6 Eng. lake; *wet, wet errand* (*anag.*) (12)
- 7 Pompous idiot (7,5)
- 8 Repulsive (6)
- 13 Old SE France kingdom (8)
- 16 A cereal; sounds like *grind it* (6)
- 17 Capital of Turkey (6)
- 19 Racecourse; type of salts (5)
- 21 Fashionable (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1233
ACROSS: 5 Congratulate 8 Fungus 9 Appeal 10 Army 12 Therapy 14 Fielder 15 Spat 17 In-laws 18 Abroad 20 Plimsoll line
DOWN: 1 Occupational 2 Snug 3 Attaché 4 Claptrap 6 Risk 7 Tramp steamer 11 Mallarmé 13 Pension 16 Bawl 19 Rail

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS — SPECIAL OFFER:
The Times Jumbo Crosswords Book 3 is available to Times readers for just £4 (RRP £4.99) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop.
Compilation volumes of The Times Two Crosswords (Book 6 — £2.99), The Times Crosswords (Volumes 10, 11, 12, 13 — £3.99 each) and Times Computer Crosswords on disk may also be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop.
To order simply call 0990 134 459 for credit card orders or for further details. If paying by cheque/PO(s) please make payable to News Books/Crosswords and send to: The Times Bookshop, PO Box 345, Falmouth, TR11 2YX. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.

هكذا من الأصل